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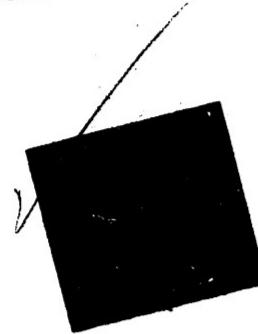
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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947



PALESTINE

FILE NO. 48

PP. 7750 - 7910

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| | | Palestine | EYYS, /G |
| 1947 39b | 31 | EASTERN | 22 AUG 1947 2 |
| E Y Y S 1 4 8 1 9 | | Illegal immigration: Conversation with M. Bidault. | |
| <p>Mr Duff Cooper Paris 830</p> <p>Dated 21 Aug Received 22 Aug.</p> | | <p>Last Paper. EYYSO</p> <p>References.</p> <p>(Print.)</p> <p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P 25 Aug</p> <p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>Next Paper.</p> | |
| <p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Mainly of interest to Western Dept, for whom a copy has been entered.</p> <p>M. Bidault admits that the French Govt. have let us down, and so they have, on the war crimes case</p> <p>(Copies sent to I.I.P. Committee)</p> <p>Mr Seine Aug 22</p> <p><i>RG</i> <i>✓ 23/P</i></p> | | | |

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

E7751

22

3

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper.

No.830

D.10.17 p.m. 21st August, 1947

21st August, 1947 R. 8.45 p.m. 21st August, 1947

.....

IMPORTANT

TOP SECRET

LIGHT

In the course of conversation today Minister for Foreign Affairs referred to the case of the illegal Jewish immigrants. I had recently written to him a letter in fairly strong terms, and had sent him extracts from the captured diary of one of the immigrants which proved the assistance they had received from the French authorities. M. Bidault said that he was not prepared in any way to defend or excuse the action of the French Government. But what, he asked me, did I want him to do about it? It did not seem to him a suitable subject for a ministerial crisis, which could only precipitate the end of the present Government by a few weeks. He said that the Prime Minister himself was tired and had said to him recently "you and your friends have been loyal to the point of folly, whereas my friends (meaning the Socialist Party) have been disloyal to the point of treason". The recent Socialist conference had shown how strong was the opposition to M. Ramadier in his own party. The Government would last over the holidays, but would not survive the month of October. I asked him what would succeed it. He said "A fighting Government of the Right" (un gouvernement de combat), and that he himself would probably be Prime Minister, in which case he would have to give up the Foreign Ministry. I suggested that he might remain Minister for Foreign Affairs as M. Blum did, and have an under-secretary. He agreed, but asked whom he could appoint to the post. I suggested M. Schneiter, who had held it before. He said that he was a very good man but not big enough for the job.

2. If M. Bidault's prognostications are correct, it means that the next Government will have to face a formidable opposition from the combined Socialist and Communist Parties.

3. M. Bidault asked me about the reports concerning the resignation of the British Prime Minister, and I said that so far as I was aware there was no truth in these rumours. He also asked me whether you were thinking of coming out here to close the Marshall Conference. I said that I had not (repeat not) heard that you were. He said that he in any case would be away, as he must have a holiday.

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218

1947

E

PALESTINE

E.7760

23 AUG 1947

Registry Number E.7760/48/31

FROM Alfred Barnes

No. My transport.

Dated 23 Aug 1947

Received in Registry 19 Aug

23 -

alternative destination for Jews at Port de Beau.
 Refer to French news letter to Mr. Beau Aug 14
 (E.7617/48/9) re deciding on alternative
 destination for the Jews at Port de Beau
 ex President warfield² begged early
 decision to release transports.

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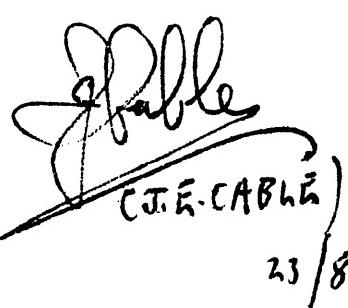
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Last Paper

7751

(Minutes.)



(C.J.E. CABELL)
23/8

JB Aug 23

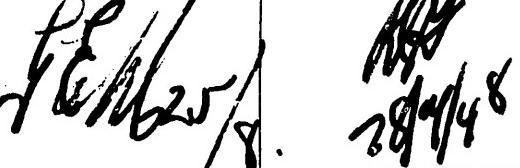
References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

ext. for doc.
 my transport
 Aug 21.
 from R.D. McAlpin
 Compt. my defence
 W.O.
 Yd.O.
 Adm'tly Aug 21.

(Action completed)



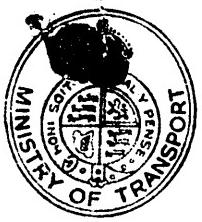
25/8. 28/9/48

(Index)

Next Paper



27/8. 28/9/48



Eastern Dept.
for draft reply in S/S
absence to P.S. Min
Transport
Berkeley Square House,
W.1.
E. 7760
19th CMCA 1947
August, 1947

Dear Sirs

23 AUG 1947

Creech Jones has sent me a copy of his letter to you of the 14th August about the Jews from the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" who are now on board the three transports lying off Port de Bouc. I agree with him that we must take an early decision on what to do with these ships and their passengers.

We shall run into serious difficulties with the crews of the transports if we keep them much longer at Port de Bouc and in any event it is most important that they should return as soon as possible to their station in the Eastern Mediterranean so as to be available for any further influx of illegal immigrants.

It now looks as if Germany is the only possible destination for the Jews from the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" and in that event it is desirable that they should be told without further delay where they will be taken if they still decline to disembark at Port de Bouc. The three transports are capable of undertaking the voyage to Germany, but in the most favourable circumstances it will be several weeks before they complete the voyage, disembark their passengers and are back in Palestinian waters. I would, therefore, strongly support Creech Jones' plea for an early decision.

I am sending copies of this letter to Alexander, Bellenger, Chuter Ede and Hall.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest Bevin

The Rt.Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open

Draft.
The Private
Secretary,
Ministry of
Transport.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S. W. 1.

August, 1947.

In the Secretary of State's absence I am writing to you in reply to Mr Barnes' letter to Mr Bevin of August 19th ^{emphasising} ~~about~~ the necessity for taking a decision about an alternative destination for the Jewish illegal immigrants now lying off Port de Bouc in three British transports.

I understand that the competent Departments of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office have been in close touch with your Ministry on this subject and that the latter have been kept informed of the decision to send these Jews to the British Zone in Germany, ^{they have also been informed} and for the suggested timing for an announcement and for the withdrawal of the transports from Port de Bouc.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries at the Ministry of Defence, the War Office, the Home Office and the Admiralty.

CMCA

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.,

21st August, 1947.

7

Dear Private Secretary,

In the Secretary of State's absence I am writing to you in reply to Mr. Barnes' letter to Mr. Bevin of August 19th emphasising the necessity for taking a decision about an alternative destination for the Jewish illegal immigrants now lying off Port de Bouc in three British transports.

I understand that the competent Departments of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office have been in close touch with your Ministry on this subject and that the latter have been kept informed of the decision to send these Jews to the British Zone in Germany. They have also been informed of the suggested timing for an announcement and for the withdrawal of the transports from Port de Bouc.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries at the Ministry of Defence, the War Office, the Home Office and the Admiralty.

Yours sincerely,

(SGB.) R. D. C. MCALPIN

The Private Secretary,
Ministry of Transport.

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Cutting dated 22 AUG 1947

TIMES

22 AUG 1947

48 131
AUG 1947 194

The Jews at Port de Bouc

In the middle of July the British Navy intercepted in Palestinian waters one more of the many vessels which have sought to land Jewish emigrants illegally in that country. Unlike thousands of earlier comers, these unhappy passengers, in number 4,554, were sent not to Cyprus to await their turn for legal entry into Palestine, but back to France, whence they had sailed. At the end of the month they arrived off Port-de-Bouc, near Marseilles, in three British transports to which the authorities had transferred them from their tramp, the ss. President Warfield. Some warning of their arrival had reached the French authorities, and French officials boarded the three vessels to invite the emigrants to land in France. The invitation was not couched in terms giving them any positive incentive to disembark, and was refused. In the three weeks of their stay at Port de Bouc, as a statement by the Foreign Office records, only about 130 of the passengers have disembarked.

The British Government have now decided that the three transports shall sail to-day for the British zone of Germany, bearing with them any who have still refused to disembark. Except for Cyprus there is nowhere else the emigrants can be housed and fed on British territory, and Cyprus is already packed with those who have tried to shoulder their way to the head of the queue. It is important to understand exactly why this decision is necessary. Sympathy may be felt for Jews who have voyaged with infinite difficulty across Europe and the Mediterranean only to find themselves turned back on the very coast of the promised land; quite other sentiments will be entertained for those who have impelled and organized this painful and haphazard emigration. Their game is abundantly clear, and is made clearer still by the frenzied threats of riot and revenge thrown out by agents of Jewish terrorism sheltering in Paris under the pompous and absurd title of a "Hebrew liberation committee." Determined at whatever cost in the suffering of others to exploit the bitter situation in Palestine and embarrass the British Government, these organizers have deliberately encouraged large numbers of Jews from many parts of Europe to try to evade the law and enter Palestine in spite of the quota. They have had no scruples in the use of bribery and corruption, and few for the safety and well-being of the emigrants. Ships they have chartered may founder or leak, food may go short, disease may break out; nothing matters but that the emigrants should be sent to certain interception by British patrols. It goes without saying that this attempt at moral blackmail has failed and will continue to fail. The reiterated refusal of the Jewish Agency to use its influence in persuading the emigrants at Port de Bouc to land in France is evidence of weakness and irresponsibility deeply to be regretted. Britain has upheld the Jewish cause with the constancy and courage of a good conscience, and people in Britain will rejoice when conditions now beyond their control allow the Jews of Europe to go in greater numbers to Palestine. Meanwhile they will resist a manoeuvre to make political capital, whether by terror or by any other method, from the wretchedness of those who have already suffered far too much.

INDEXED

Cutting dated

7760 TIMES 31
22 AUG 1947

JEWS AT PORT DE BOUC

INDEXED

ALTERNATIVE TO DEBARCATION

DECISION TO-DAY

The Foreign Office issued the following statement yesterday:—

On July 18 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the President Warfield in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. In accordance with established international procedure and with the prior concurrence of the French Government, they were returned to France, where they had obtained forged documents and whence their ship had sailed without permission. The three British transports carrying the Jewish illegal immigrants arrived off Port de Bouc on July 29 and French officials went on board to offer the passengers hospitality in France. Under the influence of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda, the French Government's offer was rejected. In spite of this offer and of the official British announcement that in no circumstances would any of the illegal immigrants be taken to Cyprus or Palestine, only about 130 of the passengers have disembarked during the three weeks of their stay at Port de Bouc.

It is clearly impossible to leave the three British transports indefinitely in French waters, and it has therefore been decided that, unless the Jews begin to disembark before 6 p.m. B.S.T., August 22, the ships will sail for the British zone of Germany, where their passengers will be immediately disembarked. This is the only territory under British jurisdiction outside Cyprus where such a large number of people can be adequately housed and fed at short notice.

His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the Jewish Agency have sufficient influence to persuade the illegal immigrants to land in France. They consider that, if the Jewish Agency really have the interests of these illegal immigrants at heart, they should be prepared to send a representative, for whose journey his Majesty's Government would offer every facility within their power, to Port de Bouc in order to make a last appeal to reason.

POLICY RESTATED

In view of the wide publicity which this case has recently received and the frequent misrepresentations of British policy in this matter, it may be well to re-emphasize the following facts:—Pending a decision by the United Nations on the future of Palestine his Majesty's Government are responsible not only for the maintenance of law and order in that country, but also for ensuring that nothing is done to prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem, and his Majesty's Government would have no justification in the present interim period for altering the existing Jewish immigrant quota of 1,500 a month. The organizers of the illegal immigrant traffic are trying to exceed this quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews. His Majesty's Government are resolutely determined to combat the illegal immigrant traffic by every means at their disposal. The transfer of illegal immigrants to Cyprus has only encouraged the organizers of the traffic, and his Majesty's Government have therefore exercised in the case of the President Warfield their undoubted right to return illegal immigrants to the country where they embarked for Palestine.

Since the French Government had offered to readmit all these Jews to France, none of them is obliged to proceed to Germany unless of his own choice he declines the French offer. Meanwhile there are several thousand Jews in Germany to-day who would by now have been legally admitted to Palestine if they had not been pushed aside by the stream of illegal immigrants.

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7760 TIMES 31 22 AUG 1947 194

Cutting dated.....194

ANNOUNCEMENT ON BOARD
THE SHIPS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT INDEXED

PARIS, AUG. 21

There were no incidents on board the three ships off Port de Bouc when the British consul read out the announcement of the British Government's decision and the French Government's renewed offer at 11 o'clock this morning. In the Ocean Vigour alone the passengers decided to hold a vote. It was in favour of remaining on board.

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Cutting dated.....194

FUTURE IN GERMANY

OPPORTUNITY AS DISPLACED
PERSONS INDEXED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, AUG. 21

If the Jews at Port de Bouc choose to go to Germany they will be placed in camps where, after examination by security officials, they may become eligible for admission to Britain as displaced persons seeking employment.

Two armed men, believed to be Arabs, seized a case containing £10,000 in cash from three employees of the Ottoman Bank at Haifa today as they were going downstairs in the bank's temporary premises. They left in a car, later found to have been stolen, and were chased by a police wireless car out of the town and past Athlit, over 10 miles southwards. The car then stopped and the two men ran off. A police-constable chased them on foot and after an exchange of fire arrested one man. The other, who had the money, got away.

A bomb exploded under the manhole cover of a petrol tank outside Haifa to-day, causing slight damage. An army lorry was mined near Nathanya and one soldier was seriously injured. An explosion also occurred in an Arab shop in Jerusalem.

7760 TIMES 31 22 AUG 1947 194

Cutting dated.....194

JEWISH AGENCY'S
REFUSAL

MR. LOCKER'S STATEMENT INDEXED

The Jewish Agency in London yesterday rejected the Government's invitation for its leaders to persuade refugees on board the three ships at Port de Bouc to disembark.

Mr. Berl Locker, a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency, read out to a Press conference the letter he had sent to the Colonial Office. The letter stated, in part: "The Government's statement adds insult to injury by alleging that the refusal of the refugees to land in France is a result of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda. The Jewish Agency indignantly rejects the suggestion that it should try to persuade the refugees to land in France. The Jewish Agency has the duty to cooperate with the Mandatory Power in facilitating Jewish immigration into Palestine. It will never, even under so cruel a threat, lend itself to an attempt to prevent Jews from entering their national home."

Appealing for the Government to think again, the letter ends: "The Government, and they alone, will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences and repercussions of their decision. In the name of the centuries-old history of British-Jewish friendship; in the name of humanity—hold your hand!"

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DAILY TELEGRAPH.

760 85 AUG 1947

BRITISH ULTIMATUM TO PORT DE BOUC JEWS

INDEXED MUST LAND TO-DAY OR BE TAKEN TO GERMANY

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Britain has decided that unless the illegal Jewish immigrants aboard the three British ships off Port de Bouc, near Marseilles, land before 6 p.m. B.S.T. to-day the ships will sail for the British zone of Germany. There, the immigrants will be disembarked immediately.

A Foreign Office statement yesterday outlined the position since 4,554 Jews attempting illegally to enter Palestine in the President Warfield were intercepted three weeks ago on their way from France.

It said that "under the influence of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda" the French Government's offer of hospitality was rejected. No more than 130 passengers have disembarked during the three weeks at Port de Bouc.

Explaining why the Jews are to be taken to the British zone of Germany, the statement continues: "This is the only territory, under British jurisdiction, where such a large number of people can be adequately housed and fed at short notice."

Britain is satisfied that the Jewish Agency has sufficient influence to persuade the illegal immigrants to land in France. The Government considers that if the Jewish Agency really has the interests of these illegal immigrants at heart it should be prepared to send a representative, for whose journey Britain would offer every facility, to Port de Bouc to make a last appeal to reason."

BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Foreign Office statement adds:

"In view of the wide publicity which this case has recently received and the frequent misrepresentations of British policy in this matter, it may be well to re-emphasise the following facts:

"Pending a decision by the United Nations on the future of Palestine, Britain is responsible, not only for the maintenance of law and order in that country, but also for ensuring that nothing is done to prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations."

"Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and Britain would have no justification in the present interim period, for altering the existing Jewish immigrant quota of 1,500 a month."

"The organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are trying to exceed this quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country and are, thereby, aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews."

"Britain is resolutely determined to combat this illegal immigrant traffic by every means at her disposal."

"The transfer of illegal immigrants to Cyprus has only encouraged the organisers of the traffic and the British Government has, therefore, exercised, in the case of the President Warfield, its undoubtedly right to return illegal immigrants to the country where they embarked for Palestine."

"Since the French Government had offered to re-admit all these Jews to France, none of them is obliged to proceed to Germany unless he or she declines the French offer."

"Meanwhile, there are several thousands of Jews in Germany today who would by now have been legally admitted to Palestine if they had not been pushed aside by the stream of illegal immigrants."

The Jewish Agency in London yesterday rejected the British Government's invitation to send a representative to Port de Bouc.

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DAILY TELEGRAPH.

760 85 AUG 1947

RESENTMENT IN JERUSALEM

INDEXED AGENCY ATTACK

From JOHN WALLIS,
Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent
JERUSALEM, Thursday.

The Government's announcement on the Port de Bouc Jews, issued simultaneously in London and Jerusalem, has caused great resentment among the Jewish community.

Jewish imagination has seized on one fact only, that these people are to be taken back to a country which has such tragic memories for all members of their race and religion.

Legally, the Government's position is unimpeachable, and therefore the Jewish Agency spokesman to-day made a 15-minute impassioned attack on the Government's policy solely from the humanitarian aspect. He made no attempt to answer the Government arguments.

Zionists believe they will gain considerable sympathy and political capital in the United States if the Jews at Port de Bouc are sent to Germany. The Chief Rabbinate is meeting to-morrow to discuss whether a world-wide Jewish hunger-strike should be called in protest against the latest developments. If the Rabbinate agrees, Rabbis throughout the world will be asked for their consent, and provided they concur a world-wide fast will be called on Monday.

DAILY TELEGRAPH.

760 85 AUG 1947

HAMBURG CAMPS FOR JEWS

From Our Own Correspondent
BERLIN, Thursday.

If the Port de Bouc Jews are brought to Germany they will be accommodated in two camps or centres near Hamburg, hitherto used for displaced persons or German refugees.

The choice of camps was being considered to-day. Displaced persons and refugees already in the camps will have to be moved. The task of housing 4,554 immigrants in the over-crowded British zone at short notice is difficult, but there has been machinery for dealing with such emergencies since the organisation of displaced persons' centres began.

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DAILY TELEGRAPH.

25 AUG 1947 31

194

JEWS REFUSE TO LAND

INDEXED

ULTIMATUM REJECTED

From Our Special Correspondent
PORT DE BOUC, Thursday.
The British Government's ultimatum to 4,554 illegal immigrant Jews who have been aboard three British transports here for three weeks, was read to them to-day by Lt.-Col. Gregson, commanding the British troops in the ships

The Government statement [report P5] saying the ships would leave for Hamburg to-morrow evening unless the Jews disembarked was also written in German on a blackboard. At the same time explanatory pamphlets were distributed.

Aboard the Runnymede Park, the first ship visited by Lt.-Col. Gregson, two Jewish leaders protested against the British decision and demanded to be taken to Palestine. All began to sing the Zionist anthem.

In the Empire Rival the announcement was received in silence. In the third ship, the Ocean Vigour, the Jewish leaders agreed to a vote, but men only were allowed to take part. After half an hour one leader stated that all the passengers refused to land.

A British request to the French Foreign Office to make a new appeal to the Jews has, so far, gone unanswered. The sub-prefect of the area, which includes Port de Bouc, was expected to make such an appeal to-day, but he was ordered not to do so by the Ministry of the Interior. To-night all is calm in the ships.

Cutting dated.....

DAILY TELEGRAPH

22 AUG 1947 31

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NIGHT SHOOTING IN JERUSALEM

INDEXED

Jerusalem, Thursday.—Tracer bullets flared through darkness around Police H.Q. here to-night, setting off general alarm sirens throughout the city just before midnight. Police said fire apparently came from the roof of a bank or night club. All-clear followed 25 minutes later.—A.P.

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MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

Editorial dated 22 AUG 1947.....194

IMMIGRANTS MUST DECIDE BY THIS EVENING

7760 48/31 INDEXED

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, THURSDAY.

The Foreign Office has announced that unless the 4,554 Jews, who were intercepted on their way to Palestine just over a month ago on board the President Warfield, begin to disembark before 6 p.m. to-morrow from the three transports which have been lying for the last three weeks at Port de Bouc, in the South of France, they will be sent to the British zone of Germany.

The statement issued to-day by the Foreign Office says:

On July 18 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the President Warfield in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. In accordance with established international procedure and with the prior concurrence of the French Government, they were returned to France, where they had obtained forged documents and whence their ship had sailed without permission.

The three British transports carrying the Jewish illegal immigrants arrived off Port de Bouc on July 29 and French officials went on board to offer the passengers hospitality in France. Under the influence of persistent Zionist threats and propaganda, the French Government's offer was rejected. In spite of this offer and of the official British announcement that in no circumstances would any of the illegal immigrants be taken to Cyprus or Palestine, only about 130 of the passengers have disembarked during the three weeks of their stay at Port de Bouc.

It is clearly impossible to leave the three British transports indefinitely in French waters and it has therefore been decided that unless the Jews begin to disembark before 6 p.m. (British Summer Time) on August 22 the ships will sail for the British zone of Germany, where their passengers will be immediately disembarked. This is the only territory under British jurisdiction outside Cyprus where such a large number of people can be adequately housed and fed at short notice.

JEWISH AGENCY'S RESPONSIBILITY

His Majesty's Government is satisfied that the Jewish Agency has sufficient influence to persuade the illegal immigrants to land in France. It considers that, if the Jewish Agency really has the interests of these illegal immigrants at heart, they should be prepared to send a representative, for whose journey his Majesty's Government would offer every facility within its power, to Port de Bouc in order to make a last appeal to reason.

In view of the wide publicity which this case has recently received and the frequent misrepresentations of British policy in this matter, it may be well to re-emphasise the following facts. Pending a decision by the United Nations on the future of Palestine, his Majesty's Government is responsible not only for the maintenance of law and order in that country but also for ensuring that nothing is done to prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations.

QUOTA NOT TO BE ALTERED

Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and his Majesty's Government would have no justification in the present interim period for altering the existing Jewish immigrant quota of 1,500 a month. The organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are trying to exceed this quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation, which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews. His Majesty's Government is

resolutely determined to combat the illegal immigrant traffic by every means at its disposal.

The transfer of illegal immigrants to Cyprus has only encouraged the organisers of the traffic and his Majesty's Government has, therefore, exercised in the case of the President Warfield its undoubted right to return illegal immigrants to the country where they embarked for Palestine. Since the French Government had offered to readmit all these Jews to France none of them is obliged to proceed to Germany, unless of their own choice they decline the French offer. Meanwhile, there are several thousand Jews in Germany to-day who would by now have been legally admitted to Palestine if they had not been pushed aside by the stream of illegal immigrants.

POWERFUL OPPOSITION

The decision to send these Jews to Germany is likely to please no one, to satisfy few, and to horrify many. It is certain that there have been several, and powerful, voices in the Government opposing it, but presumably they were not able to recommend a better solution. There is no doubt at all that world opinion will be shocked by this step, that the Germans will resent it, and the Zionists will be infuriated by it. And yet the question remains, what action was open to the British Government?

The Jewish reaction was vigorously given by Mr. Berl Locker, member of the Jewish Agency, at a press conference in London yesterday afternoon. Earlier in the day he had been informed of the Government's decision and had replied that the Jewish Agency indignantly rejected the suggestion that it should try to persuade the immigrants to land in France. He described the step as "an act of vengeance against the 4,500 refugees," and said that it played into the hands of the terrorists and weakened the position of those who opposed them.

"This is a new step on a very dangerous path for us," concluded Mr. Locker, "and I say without boasting that it is not without danger to those who have invented this path."

Mr. Locker said he had news that the immigrants in one of the three transports had refused to avail themselves of the final offer to land in France. He also reported that an urgent invitation had been sent yesterday by the immigrants to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine asking it to visit Port de Bouc to witness the conditions in which they were living. At the moment the committee is in Geneva. It was also stated in the message that "last Monday's 24-hour hunger strike was a protest and a warning. Unless it is heeded we will start a hunger strike which may end in grave disaster."

USE OF FORCE

There is unfortunately little reason to hope that any appreciable number of the Jews will now land in France and, in addition, there would seem to be every likelihood that they will resist being disembarked in Germany. If such is the case it seems almost inevitable that force will have to be employed.

The consequences of this step are likely to be serious. It will almost certainly feature prominently on the agenda of the General Zionist Council, which meets in Zurich on Sunday. The American Zionist leaders, including Rabbi Silver and Mr. Neumann, who are attending this meeting, arrived in London to-day.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

Cutting dated 22 AUG 1947 25 AUG 1947 INDEXED

ANGRY COMMENT IN PALESTINE

From our Special Correspondent INDEXED

JERUSALEM, AUGUST 21.

The Foreign Office announcement that the Jews on board the transports off France will be taken to the British zone of Germany unless they disembark before to-morrow evening has had a fierce reception from Jews in Palestine. This story has been getting much unfavourable publicity here, assisted by acid dispatches from some correspondents who have been visiting the South of France, and to-day, even before comment had reached full blast, the British Government's action was described as "shocking," "a crime against humanity," and "a fateful political mistake."

The Jewish Agency expressed the opinion that its point of view is shared by many in Palestine who do not normally agree with the Agency. It may be referring to the fact that the Administration in Palestine was doubtful at the beginning of the practicability of taking the refugees back to France, and for obvious reasons many British here regret that the situation has now arisen. It is realised, however, though the point is never discussed by the Jews, that someone in the French Government must have originally agreed to have taken the refugees back.

It was unlikely that the Agency would

be so "presumptuous" as to send representatives to Port de Bouc to attempt to persuade the refugees to land, but its representatives in Geneva would support the appeal made by the refugees to the United Nations committee there to intervene.

The Agency to-day did not deal with the British Government's points that Britain must not prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations, particularly by altering the immigration quota, that the transfer of immigrants to Cyprus had only encouraged the organisers of the illegal traffic, and that many Jews waiting in Germany had been pushed aside by the illegal traffic.

The question of Britain not prejudicing or anticipating the decision of the United Nations is of supreme importance to everyone, because although reports and suppositions are widely published to the contrary, Britain is not likely to be divested or freed of all responsibility in Palestine immediately the United Nations agrees on a solution and ends the mandate. Because there is no practicable alternative she is actually likely to be asked to carry on alone, or with at least one other if she prefers it and another can be persuaded to help.

'The Times' & 'Manchester Guardian' Service

13

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

Cutting dated 22 AUG 1947 INDEXED

JEWS LIKELY TO STAY ABOARD

From our own Correspondent

PARIS, AUGUST 21.

The decision to send the Jewish refugees of the President Warfield back to Germany if they do not disembark in France by to-morrow evening was announced in turn by the British officer commanding the escort, accompanied by British and French officials, in each of the three transports, beginning at 11 o'clock this morning. The British Government's communiqué was read to the leaders of the refugees and also distributed in leaflets to the passengers.

In each of the ships the leaders asked for time to consult with the other passengers. On the Ocean Vigour, after about half an hour, a Polish Jewish doctor replied that a vote had been taken and the decision was to remain on board and not to disembark in France. He added that the passengers had no quarrel with the crew, the military escort, or the officers of the escort on board the ships, and that they put their trust in British democracy.

There is little reason to hope for a different attitude on board the other ships, though the number of individuals deciding to land may increase during the 24 hours which still remain.

The British communiqué was made public too late for comment in the French press. It must be expected that however logical the British decision may be it will be badly received by a large

section of French opinion, including many of those whose sympathies we would most desire to enjoy.

It is true that Jewish refugees trying to enter France from Germany are not infrequently forced to return to the latter country by French gendarmes and that 80 refugees were actually turned back on the very day that the three transports arrived off Port de Bouc. But these small and frequent policy operations are not spectacular and the French people as a whole is not aware of them.

DISTASTEFUL IMPRESSION

The departure of the three transports for Germany is a different matter, and its potentialities as propaganda will not be overlooked by those Zionist extremists who have already shown themselves so influential in the handling of the news from Port de Bouc. It must be remembered that France is a country from which tens of thousands of people, both Jewish and gentile, have gone to Germany between 1940 and 1944 never to return.

Although these refugees may be going to model camps, good food, and friendly and humane administration, and although many of them may have originally fled from Germany or from farther East since the end of the war, the spectacle of the three ships leaving France for the mouth of the Elbe will certainly make a profoundly distasteful impression in France.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

Copyng dated 22 AUG 1947 7760 48/31

An Act of Folly

The Government has not so much credit left in the world that it can afford to squander it in acts of premeditated folly. Yet how else can one describe the threat to take the Jewish refugees who are now on board three ships at Port de Bouc, in the South of France, to the British zone of Germany if they do not disembark by this evening? There was something to be said for the original decision to send these illegal immigrants back to their port of embarkation, but, no matter how strong the case seemed at the time, it should now be obvious to everyone that it has failed. The Government may reasonably feel that a small part of this failure is due to the rather ambiguous attitude of the French, who did not fulfil their share of the bargain. But it badly underestimated the courage and fanaticism of the Jews themselves as well as the remarkable capacity of Zionist propagandists to misrepresent British policy. Above all, perhaps, it underestimated the sympathy which people everywhere feel for the Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution, even though this sympathy is rarely expressed in practical terms. To send these Jews back to Germany, of all places, will horrify millions. The arguments put forward to justify this in the Foreign Office statement are contemptible. There is no territory under British jurisdiction where there is less food and fewer houses than the British zone. Since the Jews have refused to land in France it is certain that they will also refuse to land in Germany. Does this mean that we shall force them to land? It is hard to imagine a more revolting and humiliating scene than British soldiers forcing Jews ashore at Hamburg or Bremen. No matter how busy they are, Mr. Bevin or Mr. Attlee must intervene. Anything would be better than that.

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| 393 | 1947 | Palestine EASTERN | EY465 /G 23 AUG 1947 | 15 |
| EY460 /48/G Berlin 1228 | Decision to send views from President Warfield to Germany: Views of Gen. Clay. | | | |
| Dated 21 Aug Received 23 Aug | | | | |
| Last Paper. EY464 References. EY488/48/9 | <p style="text-align: center;">(Minutes.)</p> <p>general 8 days remark is rather futile but is presumably intended to be helpful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>J. E. Cable</i> (J. E. CABLE) 25/8</p> <p>I wonder</p> <p>German Nat. Dept. ✓ T26/811. FB Aug 25 N.Y. Dept. - 27/8.</p> | | | |
| (Print.) P) II P (How disposed of.) 25 Aug | | | | |
| (Action completed.) <i>27/8</i> | (Index.) <i>W.H.</i> | | | |
| Next Paper. | | | | |

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23 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM BERLIN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(Military Governor)

No. 1228

D. 6.50 p.m. 21st August, 1947.

21st August, 1947.

R. 6.50 p.m. 21st August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris
Washington

F F F F

CONFIDENTIAL

E

J

Your telegram No. 2410: decision to send Jews
from ex-"President Warfield" to British Zone of Germany.

We thought it advisable to warn the American
element (through the P.W. and D.P. Div.) of this decision
before they read of it in the press. We understand
confidentially that when the information reached
General Clay his reaction was "Well, I am glad the
British decided to do this without consulting me, because
I should not have been able to agree!" We have had no
official reaction from the Americans as yet.

Foreign Office please repeat to Paris and
Washington as my telegrams Nos. 121 and 191 respectively.

[Repeated to Paris Saving and Washington]

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| | | Palestine | EYY66 | G |
| 1947 399 | 31 | EASTERN | 27 AUG 1947 | 17 |
| EYY66/48/G | News at Port de Jérusalem : Message to M. Blum from Jewish agency | | | |
| Mr Duff Cooper Paris 833 dated 22 Aug Received 23 Aug. | <p>Mr Ashley Clarke consulted us by telephone about this and we approved Hm Ambassador's line</p> <p>western Dept.</p> <p>B.S.-Bain Aug 25</p> <p>Is there any truth whatever in the rumble of the farblum reported in para: 3?</p> <p>Not as far as CO. and we know. Draft tel. to Paris 10 Aug 27</p> | | | |
| Last Paper. EYY65 | <p>(Minutes.)</p> <p><i>J. G. Able</i> (J. G. ABLE) 25/8</p> | | | |
| References. | | | | |
| (Print.) | | | | |
| (How disposed of.) | | | | |
| 8) 11P 25 Aug | | | | |
| Tel Paris 1689 Saw ✓ 27 Aug | | | | |
| 8) 11P 28 Aug | | | | |
| (Action completed.) | (Index.) | | | |
| 25 4/8 | W.H. | | | |
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E
EY766

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper

No. 833.

August 22nd, 1947. D. 6.55 p.m. August 22nd, 1947.
R. 7.08 p.m. August 22nd, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem
Marseilles
(F.O. please repeat IMMEDIATE to Jerusalem
as my telegram No. 33.)

JJJ

MOST IMMEDIATE

Illegal Jewish immigration.

M. Leon Blum telephoned to me at 4.20 this afternoon saying that he had been asked to deliver a message from the Jewish Agency to the following effect: if the British Government would guarantee that the Jewish emigrants now at Port de Bouc would be allowed to land in Palestine within a specified period the Jewish Agency would now advise them all to disembark. I asked whether by a specified period (delai definitif) they meant three or four years. He replied that they were thinking of not more than two or three months.

2. I said that I would communicate the suggestion to my Government but that while I had no authority to give a reply I felt quite convinced that it would not be accepted, if only for the reason that it would mean giving a favourable priority to deliberate law-breakers over legal emigrants who were awaiting their turn.

3. He asked me whether I would receive M. Marc Jarblum, President of all the Zionist organisations of France, which I agreed to do. The latter arrived in a quarter of an hour. He said that in a similar case where we had arrested a ship, the name of which he had forgotten, off the coast of Italy and where the passengers had refused to disembark, we had undertaken that they should be allowed into Palestine under the monthly quota. If we did the same on this occasion and allowed half the monthly quota to be filled by these people they would all be received within six months.

4. I said I was very surprised to hear that such an agreement had ever been made and that it was a pity he could not remember the name of the ship. I could hold out no hope that such an offer, if ever made, would be repeated. So anxious was I, however, to find a solution that I was prepared to put to my Government the suggestion that if these people would now go ashore they would be allowed to apply for permission to enter Palestine and to take their

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23 AUG 1947

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- 2 -

chance and await their turn with others in the ordinary way, and that the fact that they had sought to evade the law and had sailed with false documents would not be held against them. I said that this would be an act of grace upon the part of His Majesty's Government and I could not undertake that the suggestion would be adopted.

5. He said that he would be quite frank with me and say at once that such an offer would not be good enough. He saw both the logic and the justice of my position but he knew the people with whom he was dealing. He had returned from Germany only yesterday. If he had had more time he might have been more successful. As it was now nearly 5.50 I said I feared it was definitely too late but that I would report to my Government all that he had said.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office
for retransmission.]

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[EN CLAIR by Confidential Bag]

DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No: 1689 Saving

27th August 1947

X:X:X:

Your telegram No: 855 [of August 22nd: Jewish
Illegal Immigration].

We knew of no case of the kind mentioned by
M. Jarblum as recorded in paragraph 5 of your telegram
under reference. It is quite contrary to our principles
to encourage illegal immigration by granting priority
for entry to Palestine to illegal immigrants, as is
indeed shewn by the decision to send the Warfield party
back to France.

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E.7770

23 AUG 1947

1947

Registry Number } E7770/48/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Canadian

Dated 26 Aug.

Received in Registry } Aug 23.

Protest against return of Jews to Germany ^{MS.}

Petition as behalf of United Zionist Council, Canadian Jews, against return of Jews to Israel at Woodfield to Sir George Clegg, who was found to demand

Last Paper.

7766

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

W.P. reply
to all P.P. numbered
1 - 5.~~Left 2nd~~
from 1-2. Mr. Basin
3-5 Mr. Heneker

(Minutes.)

Draft reply to this and other
appeals attached, on the basis
agreed with Mr. Heneker, Co. Comr.
Private Sec.Dr. S. Reins
Aug 27
(SEI&H)

[Approved by Mr. Garrison]

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(Action completed.)

GCM 12/9

(Index.)

28/7/81

Next Paper.

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- 9a P.P.
- ① Past. T. K. Crowder. M.P.
 - ② Maurice Edelman M.P.
 - ③ Alderman A. Abbott
 - ④ M. J. Barnaby
 - ⑤ Manchester City Labour Party
 - ⑥ S. Lipton, Liverpool Jews
 - ⑦ S. C. London Zionist
 - ⑧ J. L. Barnett, Leeds Jewish Rep. Council
 - ⑨ Bradford Jews and overseas Zionist Society
 - ⑩ Leeds Zionist Council
 - ⑪ J. Rogers Hebrew University
 - ⑫ J. Lipsey, Glasgow Jews
 - ⑬ Manchester and Salford Jews
 - ⑭ Cardiff Zionist Rep. Council
 - ⑮ Argentine Zionist Committee.

18

22 I understand that it has now been decided not to send my reply to Zionist organizations and that nos. 6-15 have, therefore, received no reply. This is not quite logical, since Capt. Browder, to whom we have replied, will pass on the reply to the Zionist organization mentioned in his letter. I take it, however, that this policy will apply to future letters as well.

J. E. C. B.
(J. E. C. B.)

YCS JG Sept. 11 8/9

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Minutes.

23

- 1 Federation Unions ~~3~~
2 Anti-Apartheid Committee
3 British Jewish Ass. (L Stein)
4 Mizrahi Fdn. of GB & Ireland
5 World Representative
6 Society

5) Michael J. Barclay
6 + Ellenor re let 18
Please note re 5 flency

Copies

J.B. Aug 19

+2

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

From Captain John E. Crowder, M.P.



SEP

INT. ACK. 25
Eastern Dept.
For draft reply
30th August 1947. please.
P. J. K. 19.

Dear Bevin,

I am enclosing letters I have received from the Men's and Women's Branch of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Zionist Society, regarding illegal Jewish immigrants.

I shall be grateful if you will let me have a reply I can send on to them in due course.

Yours sincerely
John Crowder

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
The Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB WOMEN'S ZIONIST SOCIETY

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Mrs. D. BIRK

Vice-Chairman:
Mrs. R. DELOW

Co-Treasurers:
Mrs. L. STALBOW,
44, Sheldon Avenue, N.6
Mountview 7550
Mrs. A. BELIKOFF

Educational Chairman:
Mrs. E. FRANKEL

Fund Raising Chairmen:
Mrs. B. F. JOSEPH
Mrs. L. MARGOLIN

Membership Chairman:
Mrs. I. WYNICK

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. D. RIVLIN,
21, NORRICE LEA, N.2

Telephone: SPEedwell 1442

Asst. Sec.: Miss D. USISKIN

August 28, 1947

Captain Crowder, M. P.
House of Commons
S. W. 1

Dear Captain Crowder,

Our Society has been advised by the Rev. B. N. Michelson, Hon. Secretary of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Zionist Society that a telegram has today been sent by them to the Rt. Hon. C.R. Attlee, M.P. and a letter to you quoting the telegram.

Our Society, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Women's Zionist Group, endorse all that was said by the Men's Society, and we sincerely trust that there will be a reversal of decision to land in Germany those Jews now seeking a refuge in Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Delow. (Mrs)
Chairman

Shirley Levin
Hon. Secretary

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HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB ZIONIST SOCIETY

27

Chairman:
J. Mazin, Esq.

Vice-Chairmen:
B. Addleman, Esq.
S. J. Bain, Esq.

Hon. Treasurers:
W. Goldstein, Esq.
I. Wynick, Esq.

August 28, 1947

Hon. Secretaries:

Rev. B. N. MICHELSON, B.A.,
4, Aylmer Court, N.2
Tel.: MOUntview 9291

Mrs. I. WYNICK
22, Vivian Way, N.2
Tel.: TUDor 2854

Captain Crowder, M. P.
House of Commons, S.W.1

Dear Captain Crowder,

On behalf of the members of the above Soceity, we beg to send you hereunder copy of a telegram sent this day to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. C.R.Attlee, M. P.

We are sure you must view with feelings of abhorrence this proposed departure from the proud tradition of our country as defender of victims of persecution. We confidently appeal to you to support our plea that our brethren be not compelled to return to the shores of that country whose aim it was to exterminate them with inhuman tortures, and from the machinations of whose late rulers they suffered untold miseries.

Yours sincerely,

J. Mazin. Chairman

B. N. Michelson. Hon. Secretary

Copy of telegram: - Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street

"On this day of fasting, Hampstead Garden Suburb Zionist Society appeals for reversal of decision to land in Germany Jews now seeking refuge in the only land they feel holds promise of freedom being survivors of German conspiracy to torture and exterminate their race.

J. Mazin, Chairman
B. N. Michelson, Hon. Secretary

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ACKNOWLEDGED
 22 AUG 1947

POST OFFICE

TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From CU A 6166 10.27 MARGATE CU 33 =

By RT HON ERNEST BEVAN FOREIGN OFFICE WHITEHALL-LDN

I EARNESTLY REQUEST YOU AS AN ACT OF STATEMANSHIP AND CHARITY NOT TO SEND ~~1~~ REFUGEES AT PORT DE BOUC TO GERMANY = EDELMAN MAURICE MP FOR COVENTRY WEST CU

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C

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Charges to pay
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RECEIVED

At m From By At m To c.p.d. By m

POST OFFICE Eastern Dept. **TELEGRAM**

Prefix. Time handed in Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

No. 29
CMCA
2/8

PARLIMENT 22 JULY 1940
LONDON

Priority: The Prime Minister 10 Downing St.
London ^{replies} _{replies}

Mr. Bevin Foreign office Downing St. London
as member of main Party deeply hurt by
government decision to return Jewish
refugees at Port de Buc to country of
former persecution and graveyard of their
families stop strongly urge you to cancel

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible the envelope B or C

W. B. & Co. Ltd. 51-6837

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TELEGRAM

At m
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Prefix. Time handed in Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

1.24 manchester 7. 63/65 At

No. 30



To

By

privately Prime Minister

this decision forthwith and arrange
transfer to former services camp in
Mediterranean area =

Alderman A. Gross Manchester.

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at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible the envelope B or C

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Reference:

F.O. 371 / 61823

S/S

5. Dpt
for dpt.

64 Ellerton Road

31

London - S.W. 18.

August 26th. 1947.

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin,
P.C., M.P.,

Foreign Office,
London.

Dear Mr. Bevin,

Draft a reply
upon to "in view of
the reversal of the
Jewish Agency to give
this undesirable traffic
into the hands of
an unprincipled bunch of
[unclear]"

With shame and sorrow we have just
heard the B.B.C. record the latest depth which
Britain has reached in following the calamitous
decision to take 4,500 Jewish people back to the
Unholy Land. Extra guards, barbed wire, prison
holds or cages. Were soldiers as gentle as doves, we
could never be excused this deed. Were the refugees
to be received like so many Senora Perone when they
reached Hamburg, we should not be even partially
forgiven.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

32

The logic behind this action is clear; the sickening lack of wisdom or imagination, let alone humanity, is what shocks the greater part of the World and even many Englishmen. To the Jew it is simply the continuance of persecution and the justification of the war in Palestine; to the Dutch & any who have likewise suffered our moral displeasure it is a confession of hypocrisy.

Without a constructive policy in Palestine it is impossible to act on the level of our statesmanship in India, but at least we can act with common mercy and generosity by offering as a first step our own country as a temporary home — there would be overwhelming hospitality from thousands of English families if that would help — and giving freedom in exchange for work. Too great an effort cannot be made to save these people from a land of misery, desperation and despair.

Yours very sincerely, Michael J. Barclay.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61843

22 AUG 1947

POST OFFICE ACKNOWLEDGMENT No. 14 OFFICE STAMP

TELEGRAM

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22/8.

RECEIVED
Telegraph
Office, E.C.1

2.50 m From CPD 12.30 MANCHESTER 83 To

JCT

RIGHT HON ERNEST BEVIN MP SECRETARY OF STATE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS =

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE MANCHESTER CITY LABOUR PARTY
GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT
TO TRANSFER TO GERMANY THE IMMIGRANTS NOW LYING
OF PORT DORLEDOUC AND STRONGLY URGE THAT THESE
INSTRUCTIONS BE CANCELLED FORTHWITH AND THAT IMMEDIATE
STEPS BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE PLACES
OF SOJOURN ~~EXEMX~~ EITHER IN THE MEDITTERANEAN BASIN
OR ELSEWHERE PENDING THE REPORT ON THE PALESTINE
QUESTION BY THE UNO COMMITTEE = COLLINGS N CHAIRMAN
LANGAN SECRETARY +

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form,
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

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01910 Wt. 40011/P.8831 12/42 Hw. G.620

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| RECEIVED At Central Telegraph Office, E.C. 1 | dt 29/8/1945 | 11 BIRKIN | 50 2 |
| d. | Prefix. | Time handed in. | Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words. |
| From LVA m | 28 | 128-10.5 LPOOL LVM 63 = | To _____ By _____ |
| By Q | | RT HOT E BEVIN FOREIGN SEC 11 DOWNING ST LONDON | |
| <p>THE COUNCIL OF THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT JEWS DESIRES TO REGISTER ITS PROTEST AGAINST THE DECISION OF H.M. GOVERNMENT TO SEND TO GERMANY THE SHIPS CONTAINING SURVIVING VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION AND HORROR HAVING REGARD TO THE ASSOCIATION OF THAT COUNTRY WITH THE INHUMAN TREATMENT OF MILLIONS OF JEWS = I J LIPKIN</p> | | | |

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Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions

12 10Pm 100

From 100 11.40 WOOLWICH 25
By ERNEST BEVIN FOREIGN OFFICE SW- 1

POST  OFFICE

TELEGRAM

E Dept P.A. 35
Words. 274

No. 35 OFFICE STAMP

To PARLIAMENT ST. B.O. * 27 AU 47 S.W.1
By

SE LONDON ZIONIST SOCIETY STRONGLY PROTESTS YOUR ACTION RETURNING HOMELESS JEWS TO GERMANY INSTEAD OF BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER PALESTINE +

SW- 1 +

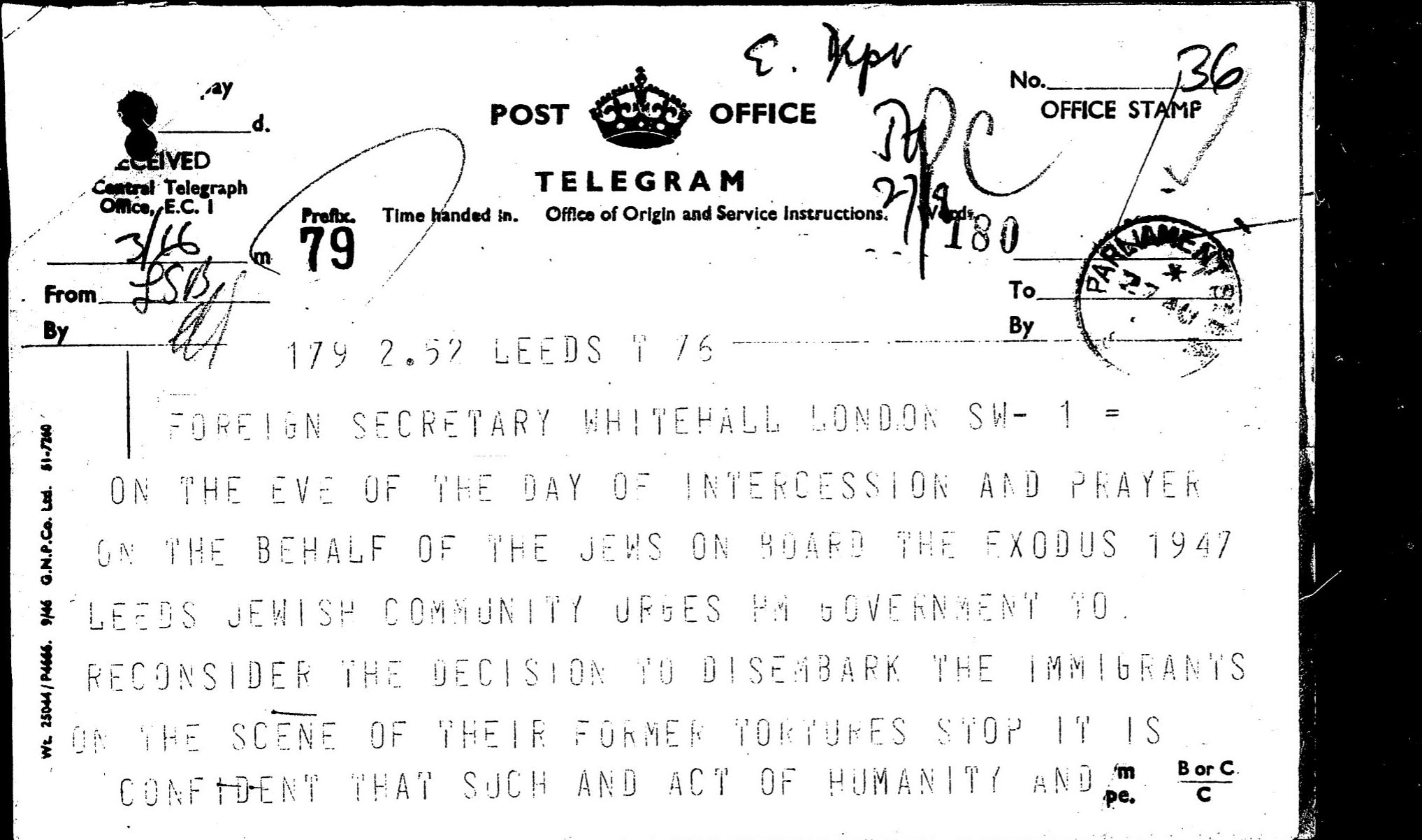
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Reference: FO 371 / 61823



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By *AB*

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95



TELEGRAM

No.

OFFICE STAMP



To _____
By _____

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371 / 61823

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Office, E.C.1



Prefix. Time handed in: Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

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From

NO 3.40PM 1.25PM LEEDS T 73

No. 39



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371 / 61823

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THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOREIGN OFFICE WHITEHALL LDN. SW1
LEEDS ZIONIST COUNCIL PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERM AGAINST THE INHUMAN ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TRANSPORTING THE JEWISH IMMIGRANTS OF THE EXODUS TO GERMANY STOP THE USE OF NAKED FORCE TO COMPEL THEIR DISEMBARKATIONS ON THE SCENE OF THEIR FORMER TORTURES OUTRAGES EVERY HUMAN FEELING AND CANNOT BUT GIVE COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE NAZI REMNANTS AND ANTI-SEMITES EVERYWHERE STOP WE URGE IMMEDIATE RECONSIDERATION AND THEIR TRANSFER TO PALESTINE *

Printed in England. Aug. 1946. (8000 pads.)

S-Dept Ptt
26/8.

5/158 5/150A

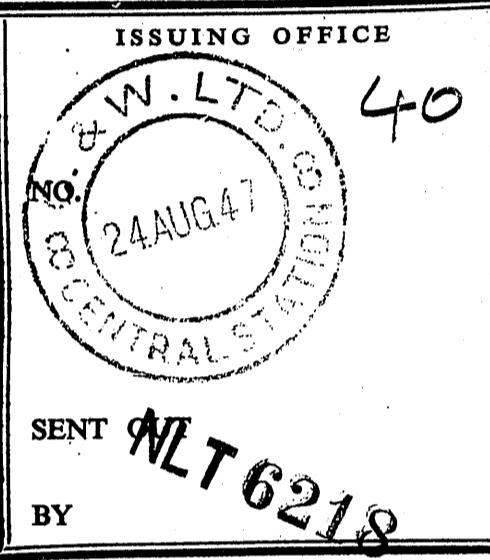
CABLE & WIRELESS LTD

RECEIVED PARTICULARS

AX4 HJD W/Y

VIA IMPERIAL

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named: Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official Instructions, if any.



CW THXA981 JERUSALEM 109 23 1425 -
NLT FOREIGN SECRETARY BEVIN LONDON -
BECAUSE LANDING EXODUS REFUGEES IN PALESTINE OR CYPRUS
NOW APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT I PLEAD
MOST EARNESTLY TO DIVERT THEM TO ENGLAND OR ANY OTHER
BRITISH PORT BUT NOT TO TAKE THEM TO GERMANY STOP
SURELY YOU WOULD NOT LAND THEM IN GERMANY IF YOU REALIZED
HOW EVEN THE MENTION OF THAT NAME FILLS THE HEART OF

Enquiry respecting this Telegram should be accompanied by this form. Mark Your Reply VIA IMPERIAL

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ISSUING OFFICE

42

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THXA981 PAGE 2

VIA IMPERIAL

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named: Prefix Letters and Number of Message, Office of Origin, Number of Words, Date, Time handed in and Official Instructions, if any.

**CW
ALMOST EVERY JEW EVERYWHERE WITH DREAD AND LOATHING
STOP FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SUCH A STEP APPEARS TO ME
TO BE UNCHRISTIAN STOP I PRAY YOU SOFTEN YOUR HEARTS
AND GIVE MY PEOPLE SANCTUARY IN A LAND NOT DEFILED BY
PERSECUTION JUDAH MAGNES PRESIDENT HEBREW UNIVERSITY +**

Enquiry respecting this Telegram should be accompanied by this form. Mark Your Reply VIA IMPERIAL

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FO 371 31823



43
TELEGRAMS ACCEPTED FOR ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD
 (except for the following European Countries: Belgium, Luxemburg, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia,
 Finland, Germany, Holland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden)
AND FOR SHIPS AT SEA, AT THE COMPANY'S BRANCHES

LONDON

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH STATION : (Always Open)
ELECTRA HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, W.C.2
 Telegraphic Address : 'Signally, Phone, London'
 Telephone Numbers : TEMple Bar 1222 (for enquiries)
 Telephone Numbers : TEMple Bar 8494 (for the despatch of
 telegrams only)
 Telex Number : TEMple Bar 2441
 BRANCH OFFICES : Telephone Nos
 Tower Chambers, Moorgate, E.C.2. ... CLERkenwell 2243
 The Baltic Exchange, Bury Street, E.C.3. ... AVenue 5514
 18 Old Broad Street, E.C.2. ... LONDON Wall 4270
 22 Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. ... MANsion House 6605
 Cereal House, 58 Mark Lane, E.C.3. ... ROyal 7837
 24 Royal Exchange, E.C.3. ... MANsion House 7974
 The Royal Exchange, Spitalfields Market, E.1. ... BISHopsgate 8993
 Candlewick House, 116/126 Cannon Street, E.C.4. ... MANsion House 9431
 Capel Court, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2. ... LONDON Wall 4811
 21 West Smithfield, E.C.1. ... CITY 5581
 3 Borough High Street, S.E.1. ... HOPA 8848
 41 & 42 Parliament Street, S.W.1. ... WHItchall 2441
 Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., Main Office, 43 Berkeley Street, S.W.1. ... MAYfair 4587
 Cumberland Hotel, Marlborough Street, W.C.1. ... MMBurgh 6244
 73 Regent Street, W.1. ... REGent 6244
 Golden Cross House, Charing Cross, Strand, W.C.2. ... WHItchall 3696
 Thames House, Millbank, S.V.4. ... VICToria 7870
 The Adelphi, John Adam Street, Strand, W.C.2. ... TEMple Bar 1222
 Grosvenor House, Enquiry Bureau, Park Lane, W.1. ... GROsvenor 6363
 And the District Messenger Company's Offices

PROVINCES

Telephone Nos.
 Birmingham 3 : Lombard House, 142 Great Charles Street, Central 8321
 Bradford : 6/10 Broadway Bradford 6007
 Dundee : 46 and 50 Bell Street Dundee 2108
 Edinburgh 2 : 99 George Street Edinburgh 25068
 Glasgow C.2 : 67 St. Vincent Street City 7761
 Hull : 4 Silver Street Central 35811
 Leeds 1 : 15 Infirmary Street Leeds 32464
 Liverpool 2 : 4 Castle Street Central 5951
 Manchester 2 : 9 Mosley Street Central 3223
 Newcastle : 31 Mosley Street Newcastle 22321
 Portloune, Penzance (Cornwall) St. Buryan 206
 Sheffield 3 : 50 The Wicker Sheffield 20283
 And at the Company's Wireless Stations at Brentwood, Dorchester, Ongar
 and Somerton.

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DUBLIN : 67 Middle Abbey Street (Enquiry Office only) Telephone No. : Dublin 74995

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HEAD OFFICE OF THE COMPANY : ELECTRA HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON, W.C.2
 Telegraphic Address : EMPIREGRAM ESTRAND Telephone : TEMple Bar 1222

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ACKNOWLEDGED ACK

22 AUG 1947



TELEGRAM

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Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From

238 12/8 GLASGOW G. & J.

By

H.R.H. ERNEST BEVIN FSA FC MP MP FOREIGN SECRETARY
DOWNING STREET, LONDON-SW1

THE GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL EARNESTLY
APPEAL TO YOU TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO SEND
REFUGEE JEWS BACK TO GERMANY THE SCENE OF THEIR
SUFFERING AND DESPAIR STOP WE FEAR THAT THIS STEP

FOR FREE RECEPTION OR ADDITIONAL WORDS TELEPHONE TELEGRAPHIC ENQUIRIES OR CALL, WITH THIS FORM
AT OFFICE OF DELIVERY. OTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THIS FORM, AND, IF POSSIBLE, THE ENVELOPE.

**Central Telegraph
Office, E.C. I.**

From _____
By _____

No. _____
OFFICE STAMP



Prefix: time named in some or a few cases

prefix: Time handled ... **Time of arrival:** _____

To _____
By _____

WILL AGGRAVATE THE GRAVE SITUATION IN PALESTINE --
AND HAMPER THE FIGHT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY AGAINST TERRORISM STOP WE IMPLORE YOU TO
ALLOW THE CLAIMS OF HUMANITY TO TRANSCEND POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS = SAMUEL LIPSEY PRESIDENT 16

TURRIFF STREET GLASGOW-C 5 7

**ENQUIRY" or call, with this form
s form, and, if possible, the envelope.**

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reference:- FO 371 / 61893

Charges to pay

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TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

4.30

m

From CPD

341 3/35 MANCHESTER T 101

IMD

PRIORITY MR ERNEST BEVIN FOREIGN SECRETARY
FOREIGN OFFICE LONDON =

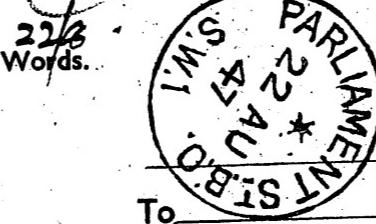
THE COUNCIL OF MANCHESTER AND SALFORD JEWS HAVE
LEARNED WITH GRAVE CONCERN OF THE DECISION TO
TRANSFER ⁴⁵⁰⁰ JEWS IN THREE SHIPS AT LEBOUQ TO
GERMANY AND URGENTLY APPEAL TO HM GOVERNMENT TO
ABANDON SUCH DECISION FORTHWITH ON GROUNDS OF
HUMANITY AND JUSTICE WE CANNOT BELIEVE THE BRITISH
STATESMANSHIP WOULD CONDEMN THESE SUFFERERS FROM
NAZI PERSECUTION TO RETURN TO THE GRAVE YARD OF
THEIR PEOPLE WE TRUST THAT CONSTRUCTIVE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR RECEPTION WILL BE MADE
IN PALESTINE WHERE THEY WILL BE FREE FROM THE
HORRORS OF THE PAST = N JACOBS SECRETARY +

ACK - (No addressee)
No.

OFFICE STAMP

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To

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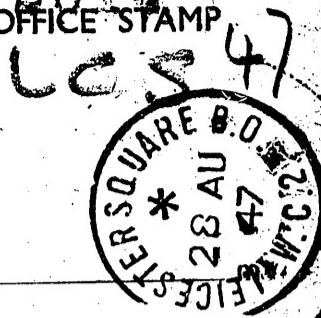
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Office, E.C.1

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TELEGRAM

No. 2614

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10.0 Pm

From AGS

8.15 CARDIFF T 108

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FO 371 / 61823

THE RT HON ERNEST BEVIN FOREIGN MINISTER FOREIGN
OFFICE LONDON
IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY WE MOST ERNESTLY AND
SINCERELY BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION TO
SEND THE FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DESPERATE SOULS
ON THE SS EXODUS BACK TO GERMANY AND IMPLORE YOU TO
RETURN THEM TO PALESTINE THEIR RIGHTFUL HOME STOP
JEWRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD LOOKS TO THIS GREAT ~~MARK~~
COUNTRY TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING ALREADY BORNE BY
THESE PEOPLE AND BEGS YOU TO BE ~~MARK~~ MERCIFUL TO THEM
IN THIS HOUR OF THEIR GREAT SUFFERING STOP WE ~~PARTY~~ PRAY
TO THE ALMIGHTY THAT YOU WILL ~~BE~~ GRANT THIS REQUEST
TO OUR SORELTY TRIED BRETHREN

CARDIFF ZIONIST REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

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AYRSHIRE ZIONIST COMMITTEE

The Sheiling, Eastern Distr.
10, Racecourse Road,
Ayr, 28th Aug., 1947. CMCA

30/Vid.

48
Draft from A.
JB Sept. 2

The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin,
Foreign Secretary,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON.

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I have to confirm having sent you a telegram to-day,
as under-noted:-

"The Ayrshire Zionist Committee plead for the humane
"treatment of the unfortunate Jews now en route for Germany,
"faced with the dreadful prospect of returning to the scene
"of human suffering unparalleled in World and Jewish
"history. We implore you to authorise trans-shipment to
"Palestine, thus heralding a policy worthy of the Highest
"Tradition of the Great British Empire".

I trust this matter will be given your very deep and
earnest consideration.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of the AYRSHIRE ZIONIST COMMITTEE

B. Davis
Secretary.

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POST OFFICE



CMCA

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TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions Work

No.

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From F CHAPMAN

To

THE RT HON ERNEST BEVIN FOREIGN SECY,

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON =

THE AYRSHIRE UNIONIST COMMITTEE PLEAD FOR THE HUMANE
TREATMENT OF THE UNFORTUNATE JEWS NOW EN ROUTE FOR
GERMANY FACED WITH THE DREADFUL PROSPECT OF RETURNING
TO THE SCENE OF HUMAN SUFFERING UNPARRALLED IN
WORLD AND JEWISH HISTORY WE IMPLORE YOU TO AUTHORISE
TRANS-SHIPMENT TO PALESTINE THUS HERALDING A POLICY
OF THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE GREAT BRITISH

EMPIRE + + +

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at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

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Registry
No. E7770/48/31

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open.

Draft.

Alderman A. Moss,
Manchester City.

Mr N. Collings,
Chairman of the
Executive of the
Manchester City
Labour Party.

Maurice Edelman,
Esq., M.P.

Mr N. Jacobs,
Secretary of the
Council of
Manchester and
Salford Jews.

Mr Samuel Lipsey,
The Glasgow Jewish
Representative
Council, 16, Turriff
St., Glasgow, C.5.

Leeds Zionist
Council.

Mr Judah Magnes,
President of the
Hebrew University,
Jerusalem.

Bradford Men's and
Women's Zionist
~~Society~~.

United Zionist
Council, S.J. Zacks,
President, Montreal

I. J. Lipkin, Esq.,
Chairman of Liver-
pool & District Jews

S.E. London Zionist
Society.

J. L. Barnett, Esq.,
Vice-President of
Leeds Jewish Repre-
sentatives Council.

C.O. Concur

FROM :
The Private
Secretary.

19/8/48

See ~~3rd Report~~

Aug 21

100m 137 26469/137

F&S

PSA

100m 137 26469/137

F&S

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUTFILE

50

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

August 1947.

1st Sept

The Secretary of State has received your communication telegram about the decision of His Majesty's Government to send to the British Zone in Germany the Jewish illegal immigrants who had been returned to their place of embarkation, the South of France, and who refused to land there. He has asked me to reply to your telegram on his behalf.

2. At the risk of repeating much that was included in the two official communiqués issued in London on August 21st and 23rd on this subject, I should like to explain briefly the facts of the present case. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the S.S. PRESIDENT WARFIELD in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Conventions for Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

3. The case of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD presented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for ~~more than~~ ^{some time} year been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound ~~have to~~ /

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Reference: FO 371 / 61823

SI
~~are bound~~ have to enforce the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month for Jews and they would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations ~~make~~ make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. The Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic ~~at present~~ are trying to exceed the ~~present~~ quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

4. In view of the exceptional size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD's contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for part of the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via ~~countries~~ countries with a Mediterranean seaboard. It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select ~~the~~ the immigrants with little

regard to /

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

- 2 -

52

regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine, who would qualify on those grounds, are regularly passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the PRESIDENT WARFIELD party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers of the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on ^{the} legal quota.

5. To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Bouc for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do ^{so}, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was ~~there sufficient~~ ^{is possible to arrange adequate} accommodation at short notice for /

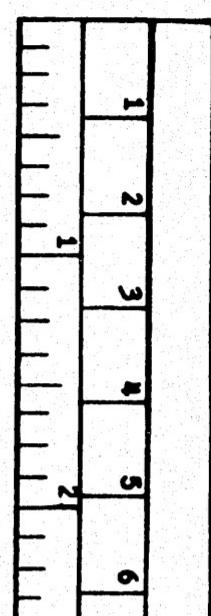
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Reference: FO 371 / 61823

notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone in Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

6. There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons I have given above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, however, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that they will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility and encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. *Nevertheless, the hope of*
the Govt that after their arrival in Hamburg
it will be possible for the illegal
immigrants to return ~~pass through~~
Germany into France.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



Reference:-
EQ 371 61823

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Registry
No.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open.

Draft.

Capt. J.E. Crowder
MD
..

from S/S

help you to answer the following material which may

2 drafts

Private Sec.
fwdt

P.S. Being
Sept. 2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(1955) W.M. 4598-114 2000 217 G.S.S. G.P. 680

54

accordance with the request
contained in

In ~~replies~~ your letter of

Aug 30th I sent ~~you~~

the following material which may
~~be forwarded~~ replace the
letters you have received from the
Men's and Women's Branches

of the Hampstead Garden
Suburb Zionist Society
on the subject of the
Jewish illegal immigrants
from the "President Warfield".

2 [This insert from para 2
of reply drafted for P.S.]

#

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

SS

4th September, 1947.

(E 7770/A8/31)

Dear Crouthers

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of August 30th I am sending you the following material which may help you to answer the letters you have received from the Men's and Women's Branches of the Hempstead Garden Suburb Zionist Society on the subject of the Jewish illegal immigrants from the "President Garfield".

2. At the risk of repeating much that was included in the two official communiqués issued in London on the 21st and 23rd August on this subject, I should like to explain briefly the facts of the present case. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the S.S. PRESIDENT WARFIELD in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. This ship of under 2,000 tons was far too small to carry anything like 4,500 people in safety, let alone in proper conditions of sanitation. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

3. The case of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD represented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for some time been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound to enforce the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month for Jews and they

/would

Captain J. F. E. Crowder, M.P.,

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would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are at present trying to exceed the quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

4. In view of the exceptional size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD's contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for inclusion in the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via countries with a Mediterranean seaboard. It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select the immigrants with little regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine, who would qualify on those grounds are regularly passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the PRESIDENT WARFIELD party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers

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FO 371 / 61823

the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on the legal quota. 57

5. To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Boue for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do so, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was it possible to arrange adequate accommodation at short notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone in Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

6. There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons I have given above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, moreover, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that the illegal immigrants will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility and encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. It

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is, moreover, the hope of His Majesty's Government
that after their arrival in Hamburg it will be possible
for the illegal immigrants to pass through Germany into
France.

58

Yours sincerely
(sgd) Robert Brown

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References

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(E 7770/48/31)

Oft

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

59

~~1st~~ September, 1947.

~~4th~~

2/9.

The Secretary of State has received your communication about the decision of His Majesty's Government to send to the British Zone in Germany the Jewish illegal immigrants who had been returned to their place of embarkation, the South of France, and who refused to land there. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

2. At the risk of repeating much that was included in the two official communiqués issued in London on the 21st and 23rd August on this subject, I should like to explain briefly the facts of the present case. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the S.S. PRESIDENT WARFIELD in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. This ship of under 2,000 tons was far too small to carry anything like 4,500 people in safety, let alone in proper conditions of sanitation. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

3. The case of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD represented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for some time been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound to enforce the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month for

/Jews

Maurice Edelman, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

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Reference:- FO 371 / 61823

60

Jews and they would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are at present trying to exceed the quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

4. In view of the exceptional size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD's contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for inclusion in the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via countries with a Mediterranean seaboard. It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select the immigrants with little regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine, who would qualify on those grounds are regularly passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the

/PRESIDENT

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

61

PRESIDENT WARFIELD party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers of the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on the legal quota.

5. To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Bouc for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do so, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was it possible to arrange adequate accommodation at short notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone ~~in~~ Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

6. There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons I have given above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, moreover, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that the illegal immigrants will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility ~~and~~ and

/encouragement

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Reference:-

EO 371 / 61823

62

encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. It is, moreover, the hope of His Majesty's Government that after their arrival in Hamburg it will be possible for the illegal immigrants to pass through Germany into France.

JB Sept. 2

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Reference:

EO 371 / 61823

(E 7770/48/31)

OUT FILE

63
FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

4th September, 1947

Dear Maurice

I have received your communication about the decision of His Majesty's Government to send to the British Zone in Germany the Jewish illegal immigrants who had been returned to their place of embarkation, the South of France, and who refused to land there.

2. At the risk of repeating much that was included in the two official communique's issued in London on the 21st and 23rd August on this subject, I should like to explain briefly the facts of the present case. On the 18th July 4,554 Jews were intercepted on board the S.S. PRESIDENT WARFIELD in an attempt to enter Palestine illegally. They had left France with forged Colombian visas of destination, in contravention of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines. This ship of under 2,000 tons was far too small to carry anything like 4,500 people in safety, let alone in proper conditions of sanitation. The French authorities had instructed the ship not to leave, but she cut her hawsers.

3. The case of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD represented a particularly flagrant example of the activities of those responsible for organising the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. As you will be aware, His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have for some time been gravely embarrassed in their exercise of the Palestine Mandate and in the maintenance of peace and internal security in Palestine by this Jewish illegal immigrant traffic. They are bound to enforce the present immigration quota of 1,500 a month for

/Jews

Maurice Edelman, Esq., M.P.

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371 / 510029

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Jews and they would have no justification, in the present interim period before the United Nations make a recommendation regarding the future of Palestine, for altering this quota. Immigration policy is of cardinal importance to the Palestine problem and all concerned should await the decision of the United Nations in this regard. Nevertheless, the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are at present trying to exceed the quota with the object of upsetting the balance of population in the country, and are thereby aggravating an already tense and delicate situation which has led to bloodshed between Arabs and Jews.

4. In view of the exceptional size of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD's contingent and of the illicit manner in which they left France, His Majesty's Government had no alternative but to arrange for the return of the illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation, France. It had become evident that the policy of sending illegal immigrants to camps in Cyprus, where they qualify for inclusion in the legal immigration quota to Palestine, had only served to encourage the stream of illegal immigrants which has for months been flowing from Eastern Europe via countries with a Mediterranean seaboard. It is noteworthy that a large part of this stream consists, not of refugees, but of Jews who have been encouraged by the organisers of the traffic to leave their homes in Eastern Europe. The organisers select the immigrants with little regard to humanitarian considerations. The older people, perhaps with relatives in Palestine, who would qualify on those grounds are regularly

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FO 371 / 31893

65

passed over in favour of young men and women and expectant mothers (the latter most unsuited to face the appalling conditions of overcrowding in which they are sent to Palestine). Parents are encouraged to send their children on the understanding that they are to be legal immigrants. A case has just arisen where a number of Hungarian parents have asked to have back their children from amongst the PRESIDENT WARFIELD party when it arrives in the British Zone; they were misled by the organisers of the traffic to think that their children were to be admitted on the legal quota.

5. To revert to the events following the return of the 4,500 illegal immigrants to France. The British transports were left at Port de Bouc for three weeks in the hope that their passengers would accept the French offer of hospitality and disembark in France. When it became clear that the illegal immigrants would not agree to land and that the French Government would not constrain them to do so, it was necessary to find a destination for them under British jurisdiction. In the light of the general situation in regard to the illegal immigrant traffic which I have briefly explained above, His Majesty's Government were quite clear that it would be undesirable to send the illegal immigrants back to Cyprus. They considered a number of destinations in British Colonial territory but in no case was it possible to arrange adequate accommodation at short notice for such a large number of people. It was therefore reluctantly decided to send the illegal immigrants temporarily to the British Zone in Germany, the only place where accommodation could be provided at short notice, and to continue to press the French Government to receive them back through the British Zone.

6. There has been much criticism of the decision to send these Jews to Germany. For the reasons I have given

/above,

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Reference:-

FO 371/51823

66

above, no alternative destination was available. It should be remembered, moreover, that this territory is administered by His Majesty's Government and that the illegal immigrants will be looked after by the British military administration and not by Germans. Moreover, as you will clearly see, there was absolutely no need for them to go to Germany at all. They have spent three weeks waiting off a French port with every facility and encouragement to go ashore, both from the French and British side. They, and those who inspire them, have chosen instead to make a political point of refusing to land, thereby causing His Majesty's Government to send them to a destination which is unwelcome to everyone concerned. It is, moreover, the hope of His Majesty's Government that after their arrival in Hamburg it will be possible for the illegal immigrants to pass through Germany into France.

Yours sincerely
 (Sd) Ernest Bevin

223

E

E 7773

1947

PALESTINE

23 AUG 1947

67

Registry Number } E777348/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Consul
Dated 150
Received in Registry } Aug 23
- 23

Last Paper.

7770

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. G.G. Dist
Aug. 26.

(Action completed.)

G.G. Dist 14/11

(Index.)

14/11

Next Paper.

7774

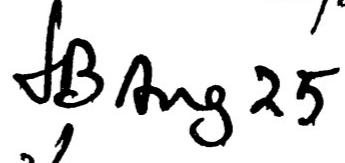
32008 F.O.P.

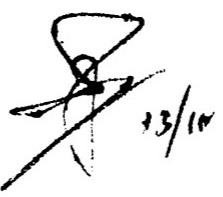
Dorelson and Reuters Agent aboard transports.
 Report FO. tel 113 (E7018/48/31) G.R.C.
 Dorelson held no news for Gibraltar or for
 British Zone of Germany, A.K. authorities
 concerned & personnel there to hand.
 Also take similar re Reuters agent
 of Gibraltar.

(Minutes.)

C.O. have telegraphed Gibraltar.
 I now submit telegram to Lubbeke.


 E.J.E. CABLE
 25/8


 J.B Aug 25
 25/8


 J.B. 25/8

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Reference:-

EO 371 / 61823

Eastern Division 68

Information
concerning three 3 documents
and enclosed in
telex no. 3856 Berlin
of 26/8/47 from F.O.
to Lubbecke.

Harris.
10/9/47.
(From Repro Dept.)

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FO 371 / 61893

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| FO 371 1893 | | | | | |

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been entered
with you Please.

E.DVN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

70

E 7773

Code R.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 23

AUG 1947

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul General.
No. 150. D. 7.03 p.m. 22nd August, 1947.

22nd August, 1947. R. 1.40 a.m. 23rd August, 1947.

IMMEDIATE.

- - - - -

RESTRICTED.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

Your telegram 113. — E

International Red Cross Doctors hold no visas for Gibraltar or for British zone of Germany. Please ask authorities concerned to permit them to land. Their names are (A) Roland Marti (B) Michel Mathey-Doret (C) Erwin Wildi.

2. Please take similar action as regards Gibraltar for Reuters Agent whom you have authorised to sail with convoy. His name is Harold Boyd France holding United States passport number 5812 issued in Paris January 16th, 1947.



OUTWARD TELEGRAM

~~76021~~ FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

En Clair

TO GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir K. Anderson)

Sent 23rd August, 1947. 14.00 hrs.

IMPORTANT

67773 48 31

INDEXED

No. 221

PRESIDENT WARFIELD.

Three International Red Cross doctors and one Reuter correspondent are on board transports and request permission to land while ships are at Gibraltar. Grateful if you would give facilities. Names are:-

Roland Marti
Michel Mathey-Doret } Swiss
Erwin Wildi }
Harold Boyd France (U.S. Passport 5812)

Copy sent to:

Foreign Office (Eastern Dept.) - Mr. Cable.

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Reference:- EQ 371 61893

224

E

E.7774

1947

PALESTINE

25 AUG 1947

72

Registry Number } E7774/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. 217 Ferram
Stockholm.Dated Received in Registry } 195.
22 Aug
25

Last Paper.

7773

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

9662/9

(Index)

28/8

Next Paper.

7780

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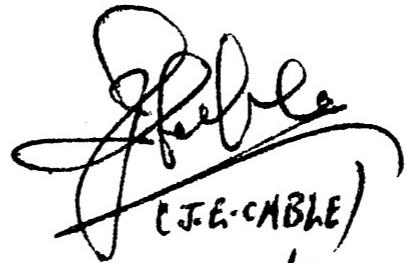
Swedish Press Reactor to 14 Aug decision re
news at Port de Boera.Swedish Reactor in Swedish Press to 14 Aug decision
about news at Port de Boera has been factful
and non-seasational. The four leading
newspapers "The British", "the word per word"
"Lao Dagblad Nyheter" and "Lövaskö Nogbladet"
printed statement almost in full.

(Minutes.)

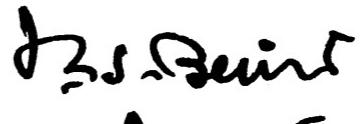
Northern Dept. 6.8.2 27/8.

Information Policy Dept. 6.8.2 27/8.

News re Dept. 6.8.2 27/8


 C.J.G. CABLE
 25/8

Wc done


 D.S. Bent
 Aug 25


 R.G.
 ✓ 26/8

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Reference: FO 371 / 61823

E. 7774

73

En Clair GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM STOCKHOLM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Jerram

No. 595 D. 7.12 p.m. 22nd August, 1947
22nd August. 1947 R. 9.20 p.m. 22nd August, 1947

8 8 8 8 8

Reaction in the Swedish press to His Majesty's Government's decision about the Jewish illegal immigrants at Port de Beuc has been factual and non-sensational. So far there has been no comment editorially. Thanks to the adequate warning given, the Information Department was able to prepare in advance a careful translation of the Foreign Office statement and this was circulated to the press and news agencies with satisfactory results. The four leading morning papers today give the British case word for word from our translation and two of them Dagens Nyheter (Liberal) and Svenska Dagbladet (Conservative) print the statement almost in full.

In addition, the statement was distributed by mail to four hundred prominent personalities who regularly receive material from the Information Department.

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PALESTINE

E.7780

25 AUG 1947

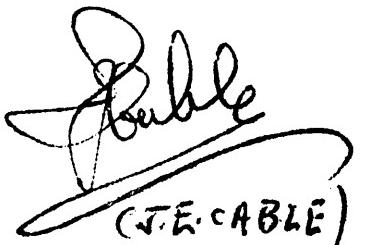
Registry Number } E7780/48/31
FROM I. Dugham
 No. Colonial Office
 Dated 76021/47
 Received in Registry } to M. Becht.
 21 Aug
 25

Bruna and Lucciano
 Refer Manchester Guardian article of 27 July giving full account of reason for not sending back the illegal immigrants from Bruna and Lucciano. Too brief a/c reason for believing that account given by correspondent was in all probability nothing more than intelligent deduction.

Last Paper

7774

(Minutes.)


 (J.E. CABLE)
 25/8

JB Aug 25

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

P. 6626/8

(Index)

284/48

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Reference: FO 371 / 61823



76021/47

SECRET

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

21st August, 1947.

E.7780

encl 75

25 AUG 1947

My dear Beith,

You will remember mentioning at a recent meeting of the Illegal Immigration Committee a report from the "Manchester Guardian" correspondent datelined Jerusalem July 27th in which a full account was given of the reasons for not sending the illegal immigrants from BRUNA and LUCIANO.

We have now heard from the High Commissioner that information given out in Jerusalem by the Public Information Officer was confined to the statement that, though standing firmly by the right refoulement, which would be carried out in suitable cases, Government declines on security grounds to give its reasons for the disposal of illegal immigrants in particular cases.

The High Commissioner is satisfied that the very few officers of Palestine Government who were aware of the circumstances did not enter into discussions of the reasons why the immigrants from BRUNA and LUCIANO were not sent back when they came. Even before it was known that the immigrants were to be sent to Cyprus there was locally a spate of discussion, speculation and conjecture, in the course of which virtually every possibility must have

/been

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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RECEIVED IN C.B.

23 AUG 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

76
been touched on. The High Commissioner therefore feels that the account given by the "Manchester Guardian" was in all probability nothing more than intelligent deduction.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Evershed.

Yours ever,

John Higham

(J. Higham)

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PALESTINE

25 AUG 1947

Registry
NumberFROM
Rev d. P.
No.
Backhouse
Dated
Received
in RegistryBrockenhurst
Aug 18
25,"Retention of clippings"

Enclosed copy of pamphlet circulated by the Jewish Agency, etc., in view of anti-British tone, if prosecution or possible against the Agent and Odham Press for publishing same.

Last Paper

7780

References

4960/48/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Npt. Rev. of P.
Backhouse.
Lest. 2.

(Action completed)

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(Index)

APP. 8
20/4

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There has been a previous complaint (Minutes) about this article and we wrote to the C.O. on the subject. I suggest that we should reply on the lines of our letter to Miss Bell in E 4960

(J.E. CABLE)

27/8

Yes : we had better draft for Mr Mayhew's Private Sec., as he is away, and explain that we have been looking into the question. Please let me see draft.

J.B. Aug 30

Draft submitted accordingly

(J.E. CABLE)

J.B. Sept. 3 1/9

From the

Reverend T. P. Backhouse,
Director of Religious Education
for the Diocese of Norwich.
TEL: FRAMINGHAM EARL 254.

1) Mr. Mayhew
2) Eastern Dept
(This is from
a constituent)

The Rectory,
Caistor St. Edmund,
Norwich.

August 18th. 1947

Dear Major Mayhew,

E. 7782

25 AUG

The Jewish Legion, 21. Hyde Park St. London. W.2, is circulating a pamphlet entitled "Destination Unknown" and a copy has been sent to me. I assume that this is being sent to Clergy generally, and to others as well. It contains the most vicious and the most unfair attack on the British Navy that I have ever read. The pamphlet pretends to make out that a ship load of innocent Jews was on its way to Palestine, and without any provocation was attacked by a British Destroyer. First of all Gas Bombs and Gas Mortars were used, and in particular these were specially directed at the babies who were sheltering in a Mess room. After this Marines boarded the ship and again without any provocation started to shoot down the Jews on the Deck. So this article reads.

It is significant that the Printers of this are Odhams (Watford) Ltd., who may well be described as the official Socialist Printers, in that they publish the "Daily Herald" etc.,

I am sure that you personally would completely condemn such horrible anti-British propaganda and I trust that you will take the matter up at the highest level. First of all would you please see if a prosecution is possible against The Jewish Legion, and Odhams Press, and secondly would you please enquire as to how respectable journals are curtailed in their paper supply, and paper is provided by the authorities to enable Odhams to print anti-British propaganda.

Yours sincerely,

T.P. Backhouse

In this week's Times Educational Supplement it is pointed out that in London alone there is a shortage of over two million textbooks for the children and this is due to the fact that the authorities refuse to release the necessary paper to have them printed. The same authorities however can provide paper for Odhams, & allied to British Navy.

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Below Decks in Haganah ship *Levi Hey*, four-tiered bunks were fitted, but there were 600 passengers on board this 700-ton old cable-laying vessel, and trip to Cyprus was long and tiring, and made even more tiring because of overcrowding.

Ventilation had been installed, but in the eastern Mediterranean the sun is strong and conditions often became unbearable. One room was set aside for women to wash, but they had to queue for two hours because only six could use the place at one time.

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

This is the log of a voyage that has not ended. Its travellers still wait in the camps of Cyprus for their journey's end. It is also an incident in a drama, the major acts of which are being fought out in Palestine and argued by the United Nations considering Britain's unhappy mandate. The actors are not only statesmen, soldiers, and gunmen. They are also the waifs and strays of Belsen and Auschwitz, the latest chapter in whose dark tragedy these pictures and story tell. ILLUSTRATED records them, not to awaken sympathy or arouse resentment, but as an unvarnished report which should be made widely known.

ILLUSTRATED is published weekly by FREDERIC DAUBER & CO.

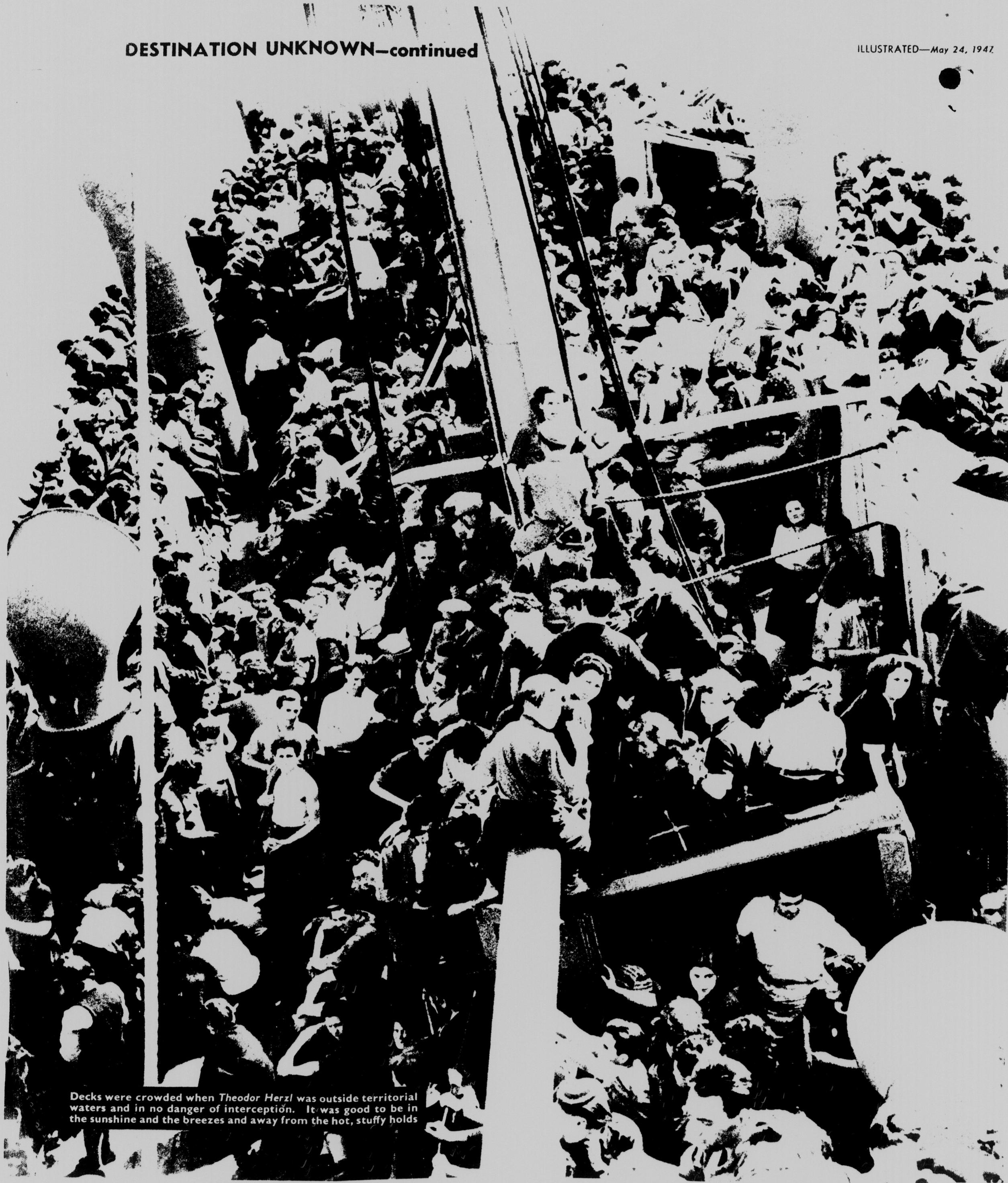
Reprint of article "Destination Unknown" from ILLUSTRATED, issue dated May 24, 1947.

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DESTINATION UNKNOWN—continued

ILLUSTRATED—May 24, 1947

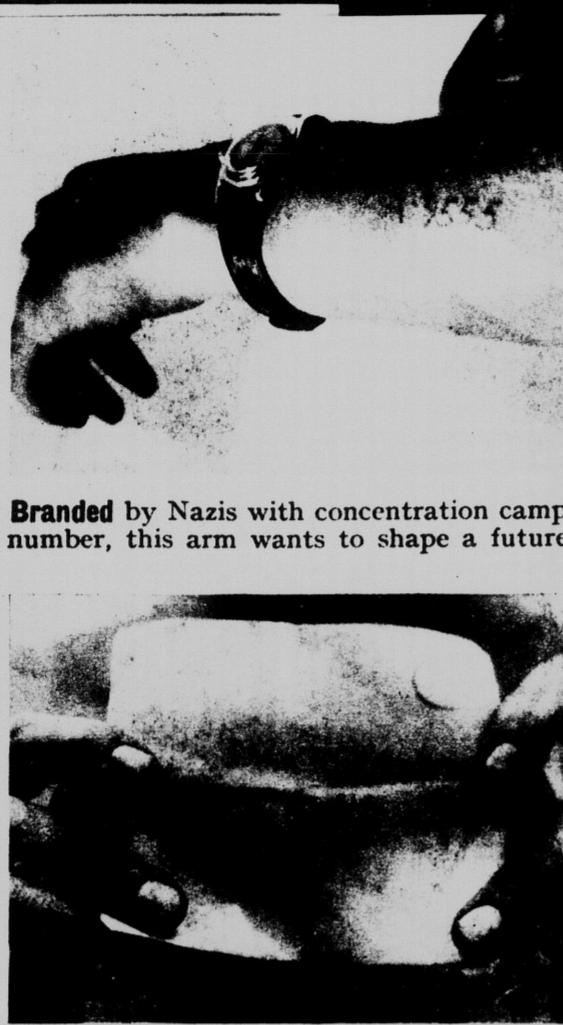


Decks were crowded when *Theodor Herzl* was outside territorial waters and in no danger of interception. It was good to be in the sunshine and the breezes and away from the hot, stuffy holds

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Decks Were Emptied when the Haganah ship came nearer to land. Only a few passengers and some of crew kept a look-out



Branded by Nazis with concentration camp number, this arm wants to shape a future
Only Document the refugees carried was a ticket giving letter and number of bunk



Overcrowding brought many cases of fainting and illness. The small medical staff worked day and night to succour the sick

THE shadows were lengthening in the little town "somewhere in Europe" when the telephone bell rang in my hotel room. "This is it," said the voice for which I had been waiting a week. It was the voice of my liaison with Haganah, the Palestine Jewish defence organization.

"If you can be at 'X' by eight tomorrow evening, you can be fixed up. Here's the phone number you ring when you get there. They'll know all about you. I hope you can make it. Have a good trip." It was late afternoon next day when I reached the airport at "X." I called the number I had been given. "Come right over," said a voice in broken English. "Here's the address. Give a V tap on the door when you've rung. Be here in a quarter of an hour."

I took a taxi and drove over; rapped the prescribed number of knocks, and the door was opened by a young man, who led me through several corridors until we reached an office. My hand was grasped and shaken by a tall, fair-skinned, blue-eyed Haganah officer, who greeted me with the Hebrew salutation, "Shalom" ("Peace").

"The ship," he came sharply to the point, "is at present lying off 'A,' about two hundred miles away. She should sail some time tomorrow. At nine tonight the first convoy of refugees will leave to join her. All will be on the move by midnight. We're using eighty heavy lorries for transport. Travel with the first convoy. You ought to know that this trip won't be a picnic. Shalom!"

At nine o'clock my guide was waiting for me with a taxi. We drove off to a nearby house, where we found a group of three hundred refugees seated on their rucksacks, waiting for the signal to file into the trucks which were parked with lights off.

In the porch the group leader was standing, directing the beam of a pencil torch on a sheaf of papers checking the names of his travellers. "We're moving off in a few minutes," he told them. "It will be an all-night drive. You may smoke if you wish. None is to leave the truck until ordered. Make as little noise as possible. Mount."

Each driver had been given a route card and told he would be given fresh instructions at the next stop. None knew the final destination. At intervals during the drive, a figure would emerge from the shadows and wave a lamp for the truck to stop. He would whisper a word to the man in charge of the truck and thrust the next part of the

THE JOURNEY OF THE "THEODOR HERZL"

by MAURICE PEARLMAN



Eighty Lorries took refugees to their ship from "Rendezvous X." They travelled through the night, drivers being handed destination route as they went along

route card in the driver's hand. This went on all night until we reached the final rendezvous point.

The harbour was small. Our ship was just being brought alongside. Each of us had two tickets, one with our name and group number, the other with the number of our berth. As each group embarked it was quickly swallowed up by the holds, in which "beds" had been constructed.

By late afternoon, all 2,640 passengers were on board, and half an hour later we pulled away. As the Haganah ship, *Theodor Herzl*, steamed out, everyone on deck stood to attention and sang with vigour the verses of "Hatikvah"—the Jewish song of hope.

First Day

My Haganah host warned me that this trip would be no picnic. It isn't. The *Theodor Herzl* is a forty-year-old, 3,000-ton, single-funnelled, cable-laying steamship that rides the water well. She is 278 feet long and 36 feet wide. Her deep, capacious holds have been fitted with four-tiered wooden boards to serve as beds, which mean a tight squeeze. There is electric light and ventilation. We get three "meals" and a ration of one quart

of fresh water a day. For breakfast we get just over half a pint of hot tea, one and a half large ship's biscuits, cheese and jam; a plate of hot stew for lunch; and another hot plate of stew, or, on occasions, hard tack, in the evening.

Second Day

There is a certain amount of sickness. Among our passengers are seventeen young nursing mothers with babies only a few weeks old. Haganah was loath to take them. But they insisted. They had been waiting too long in Europe, they said, and they wanted their babies start breathing freedom as soon as possible. There are also a number of pregnant women.

Among the rest of the passengers, nearly all of whom are concentration camp survivors, are some whose bodies have not yet mended. The sick bay is crowded, and our two doctors, seventeen nurses and three pharmacists—all qualified, all themselves refugees—are practically dropping.

Third Day

The older doctor, a fifty-two years old Hungarian Jew, who already has two sons in the detention camp on Cyprus, was relaxed and smiling when I saw him today.

"I've got half my beds empty again," he said. "If this weather keeps up, we should get along quite nicely." It is keeping up.

Fourth Day

Two-thirds of our passengers are young boys and girls between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four. Most of the rest are under thirty-five. There are a few older ones and a few infants. Every single refugee has lost at least one immediate member of the family, a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a child. Most are the sole survivors of their family.

Pretty, eighteen-year-old Georgina has been waiting a year to get to Palestine. The concentration camp number tattooed on her forearm goes ill with her bright-red jumper and her long, smooth fingers. She has nothing left in Europe. Her mother was gassed at Auschwitz. Her father, who escaped and joined the partisans, fell into German hands a month before war ended and he was shot. Rachel Ziporah, with thick chestnut hair,

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DESTINATION UNKNOWN—continued



Honduran Flag flew first to hide identity. Later ship changed name from *Guardian* to *Theodor*



ILLUSTRATED—May 24, 1947



Morning Toilet with drops of water saved from a daily drinking ration



Youth At Prayer wears sacred phylacteries on forehead and arm. These contain Bible verses

YOUNG LOVERS ABOARD FIND LITTLE CHANCE TO BE ALONE, BUT THEY ARE HAPPY

dancing eyes and dimpled cheeks, is an attractive twenty-one year old from a Polish village near the prewar Russo-Polish border. She sings like an angel. I know, for I hear her each night.

Her Auschwitz concentration camp number, which she will bear for the rest of her life, is 67774. It was at Auschwitz that her mother and two sisters perished in the crematorium. Her young brother, aged six, died of a heart attack when the Germans came to round up her family. Her father survives. He is in a German D.P. camp waiting his turn to get into Palestine.

Fifth Day

Last night was the Passover. There was no wine to drink the traditional "four goblets," and not all had unleavened bread. But there was perhaps hardly any need for symbols on this voyage.

"Who knows?" a young orthodox Polish Jew observed, as he looked up from his Passover Festival prayer book. "Jews in the year 2047 may celebrate their Passover with an addendum to the story of the Egyptian exodus—the epic of these

remarkable clandestine voyages to Palestine of Europe's surviving Jewish remnants after the twentieth century's second world war."

Sixth Day

There is a bearded fiddler on the after deck playing modern folk songs of Palestine's pioneers. His eyes are bright and full with humour. He seems to have forgotten the persecution tattoo mark on his arm. He is already living in the future. And the crowd of young men and women around him, who are singing themselves hoarse, also seem to have put tragedy behind them.

Seventh Day

As we move eastwards it gets hotter and stuffier in the holds. I asked Marya, a twenty-three years old ex-partisan girl from Lodz, who had been very sick at the beginning of the trip, why she had come at all. She regarded me with eyes of fascinated surprise. "Look," she said to me, with the indulgence one uses with an infant, "we're on this ship and I've felt pretty bad. But even if it lasts

the whole of the voyage, I know it will end after some day and that I can look forward."

Eighth Day

How is the ship run? Mostly the crew are exiles from their own country. They are aided by Jewish volunteers from Palestine. The officer in charge is a young member of Haganah. He combines toughness with a warm humanity. He is twenty-three, and in his hands are the lives of more than 2,500 people. He is an able commander in addition to being an experienced seaman.

Aiding him are three other members of Haganah. One is in charge of ship's stores, food and water. One supervises the engines, boilers and electrical installations. The third acts as second-in-command and general factotum to whom various group leaders turn with their problems.

The passengers are split up into twenty "camps." At the head of each is a leader. Each camp has a number of sections—it varies from three to eight—headed by a section leader. There are forty to fifty people in a section. The section

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N EACH OTHER'S ARMS AS THEY DREAM OF A NEW LIFE AHEAD IN PALESTINE

leader is responsible for his group's rations and cleanliness. In addition there are two gangs of volunteers, sixty strong, who clean the decks and act as sanitary orderlies. Twenty volunteers work in the galley, another twenty serve as stokers and engine-minders, while ninety work in day and night shifts as guards, fire-watchers and look-out men.

Ninth Day

We have long settled down to an orderly life. The passengers sleep; they sunbathe; they read and chat in one of nearly a dozen languages—Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, French, Dutch, Rumanian. The young folk on deck sing and sing and sing. Where they find this energy and this spirit I have not yet been able to fathom.

It has to be seen to be believed. But hearing it one begins to understand how some of them managed to survive the concentration camp.

Tenth Day

We have just passed Crete. At ten last night a warship winked out the morse message A A—

"Who are you?" We replied with our name, and asked who they were. "Warship," they replied, and went on flashing Morse queries about us.

Our captain got tired of this interrogation and shut off our Morse lamp. The warship, probably a destroyer, pushed off. But the Haganah boys consider that the authorities have wind of us.

Zero Hour

Zero hour was seven o'clock on Sunday evening, when we were within sixteen miles of the Palestine coast. We had been steaming for thirteen days, and shortly before the decks had throbbed to joyous shouts as we picked out the first twinkling lights of Tel-Aviv. The sea was calm, the dusk air mellow.

"We may yet make it," everyone was thinking, hoping and praying. And then, suddenly, hopes and darkness were shattered by the snapping on of a powerful searchlight some miles away. It swept the waters. A few moments later another searchlight flashed across the darkness on our port side. But we were beyond their range. We steamed on. Tel-Aviv came closer.

A mile nearer, a mile and a half, two miles. "Oh for a burst of speed," lamented our Haganah officer as we creaked out our five knots. We stood on the bridge, eyes fixed on our goal. Another few moments and a powerful searchlight brilliantly illuminated our prow.

In no time at all, a destroyer raced across the water, holding us all the time. The destroyer halted a few hundred yards away. Her powerful light swept our decks and played on our bridge. Suddenly the air crackled with the preparatory splutter of a loudspeaker. "This is a British warship. I want to speak to your leader," cried a very English voice from the destroyer K 600.

"Full speed ahead," ordered the Haganah chief. We eased towards Palestine. Back came the voice from K 600. "You are about to enter territorial waters. I must warn you that if you do so it will be my duty to board you, arrest you and take you to Haifa. I want to speak to your—"

The last word was cut off, for suddenly, with the spontaneity of a forest blaze, the Hatikvah hymn surged over the ship, covering the vessel with a complete canopy of song.



Good-natured queue of jesting women lines up with pails for an issue of sea water for washing



Friend In Need pours a minimum of water needed for washing the hands



Ship's Surgeon, Dr. Simon Weiss, had hard task attending many sick with his limited facilities



Guitarist accompanies impromptu choirs in Palestine pioneer songs

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LIFEBOAT BERTHS PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE FOR SICK PASSENGERS. THEY REQUIRED A DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE FOR THIS PRIVILEGE

And so this fantastic procession crept forward, the *Theodor Herzl* filled with singing refugees, the British man-o'-war, its company tense, tight-lipped, armed, waiting for the signal to board. While they were waiting, the Marines could read the banners aboard the *Theodor Herzl*, spotlighted by the searchlight: "Did you join the Navy to chase orphans?" and "The Germans destroyed our families and homes; don't you destroy our hopes?" At the very top of our forward mast the blue and white flag of Zion, with the Shield of David bordered by two bands of blue, fluttered in the soft breeze.

We could see the lights of the city quite plainly. We had only to reach out our hands, it seemed, to grasp the sand on the Tel Aviv beach.

We were just about three miles from shore. Suddenly K 600 bore down. She raced past our starboard side, sweeping our decks with powerful jets of water. Something like this had been anticipated, and babies, sick and pregnant women had been taken below. But children and aged had remained above, gazing their fill of the land they were destined not to be able to touch for a long time.

They were drenched, and as the destroyer sped by they were taken to the holds. All the rest

gathered up bottles and boxes of tinned food and moved over to the port side, just as K 600 turned, waited for us to pass, and then repeated the performance on our port decks.

The destroyer continued its sweep, the Marines on deck ready to jump and board us. But the refugees had not moved. And so the destroyer turned and again sped along our starboard side. But this time the water attack was accompanied by the sudden lobbing of gas bombs in our midst.

Above the "swish" of the hoses came "phtz" of the gas mortars which sent out acrid, blinding, choking smoke it seemed impossible to fight. I had moistened my handkerchief, and, applying it now to my eyes, found I could hold out. When I could see again I beheld a deck crowded with young men and women, busily casting gas bombs overboard as they hit the deck, and then returning to the task of flinging bottles and tin boxes at the decks of the destroyer.

Near me stood young boys and girls, spotlighted in the searchlight their bodies and their arms poised with a bottle calmly waiting for the range to shorten before casting their missiles.

A cry on the after deck was cut short by a thud. Aaron, a lad of twenty three, who had been

through a concentration camp, was hit by a gas bomb square on his skull. He fell back. His brains spilled over the cross rails of the ship.

Up in the wheel house and on the bridge, the gas bombs dropped in clusters. The man at the wheel had a gas mask, and he kept us on our course. Back came the destroyer, this time on our port side again, bumping our stern, squirting water, lobbing gas bombs.

Twice more K 600 sped past our decks. By now our eyes burned and streamed, our lungs were choked by the filthy fumes, our clothes hung upon us heavy with water.

From below came the cries of the babies—gas bombs had been tossed into an opening on the ship's side which gave on to the mess room in which they were sheltering. There were still many people on every part of the main and boat decks who stood ready for further action.

Then came the bump. Under cover of a powerful hail of gas bombs and a concentrated stream of water, K 600 drew near the after deck on our port side and a detachment of Marines jumped aboard. They wore white commando-style helmets, blue life jackets. Each carried a sten gun and wore a revolver; a baton was slung over the shoulder.

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371 81823

May 24, 1947—ILLUSTRATED



Anti-tear-Gas Goggles were worn by some refugees as protection against injury when ship was seized. Lilith Praager wears hers for sun-glasses as she basks in Mediterranean sun



Defiant In Glare of destroyer's searchlight, group of young partisans who fought Nazis, chant hymns of hope as they wait for naval boarding-party to place them under arrest



Wounded Girl of nineteen, survivor of infamous Belsen, lies in an improvised sick-bay. Bullets from boarding-party's guns pierced legs. Twenty-seven were wounded; three died



Two Dead Refugees draped in Jewish flag are about to be carried by comrades to quayside at Haifa where refugees stayed few hours before being sent on to camp in Cyprus

Some of the Marines moved across to the port side and began firing with their stens. We still thought this was all part of the nerve-scaring game, when one of the refugees fell. It was Peter Weiss, a twenty-four years old Jew from Budapest, who had already found distinction as an agricultural engineer. Others were falling with bullet wounds in the leg, the arm, the shoulder, the belly. We knew only that there was firing and that we were suffering casualties.

By 11 p.m. the boarding party was in possession of the ship and a tow hawser was tied to our forward capstan. Aaron, our first casualty, was taken to the sick bay, his leg marked with his name and particulars. Then the wounded. Menahem Samet came first, ashen, pallid, with a bullet wound in the belly from which he was to die three days later in a Haifa hospital. His wife stood nearby, bitter but dry-eyed, gazing at her suffering husband. She would not go away.

The M.O. from the destroyer came aboard. He inspected the wounded and then went to the bridge and shouted by megaphone across to K 600: "Can you please send across stretchers and stand by to take off several with grave gunshot wounds—some are likely to die."

Shortly afterwards, the destroyer drew alongside. But meanwhile a high wind had risen and the sea heaved angrily. The removal of our wounded—fifteen were taken off them and twelve more at Haifa two days later—was a most precarious operation. After a masterpiece of naval dexterity on the part of the skipper of K 600, the wounded were landed and the destroyer sped off to Haifa.

Our journey to Haifa took twenty-seven hours. The sea was rough. There was no ordered routine on board. But at last we were deposited in the bay of Haifa and after much trouble with snapping hawsers were tugged into the dock. As the *Theodor Herzl* neared the quay, the passengers on deck stood to attention and sang the Hatikvah. We were moored alongside a dock ringed with barbed wire and troops of the Sixth Airborne Division.

Then came the transfer of refugees to one of the "Empire" vessels that was to take them to Cyprus, where I revealed myself a few days later as a British correspondent. My underground journey was now over. But it was not easy to say "Shalom" to my fellow passengers of the Haganah ship whom I left behind their barbed-wire fence on the island. They are still waiting and waiting for the end of the long voyage home.

British Soldiers of the Sixth Airborne Division try to console two boys whose mothers were wounded in fight



Registry
No. E 7732/48/31
J.E.C.

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

To
Rev. T.P. BACKHOUSE
from
Private Sec. to
Maj. Mayhew

Should be
prosecuted.

2. We have been
looking into the
matter and
understand that

Mr Reddaway
^{M.S. 29}
first

H.S.D. 29
Sept. 1

OUT FILE

Dear Sir,
Before he went on leave

Suggesting that those responsible
for issuing

~~Mr~~ Maj. Mayhew has asked me
to reply to your letter of
the 18th August ~~in~~ to the
pamphlet "Destination Unknown",
which you received from the
Jewish Legion, ^(reproduced in this pamphlet)

When this article
first appeared in the "Illustrated"
of 24th May, it was brought
to the notice of the competent
Departments. ~~but it was decided~~
that there ~~would not~~ ^{were not} offer
to be sufficient grounds for
a prosecution ~~in this case~~

3. There is not, of course,
any

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 6182 C

87 any censorship of the press
in this country nor are the
Govt. prepared to use paper rationing
as a method of censorship.

Paper is allocated to publishers
on the basis of what they used before
paper rationing was necessary.

As regards educational books, the
Board of Trade have taken considerable
measures to improve the supply.

The main publishers who get about
800g. f what they used
previously are compelled to

use 250g. f pubⁿ of ed^l books,
and of the remaining 75g. f they are
compelled to use the same proportion
also for ed^l books as they used before.

In addition there is a grant of paper which
is issued on the advice of a committee
for pubⁿ of books of cultural, scientific
& ed^l interest which did not
otherwise get published.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) R. Jose.

Private Secretary

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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1 2 3 4 5 6
Reference:- FO 371 / 61823

11132/48/1

OUT FILE

88

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

September 2nd, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Before he went on leave Mr. Mayhew asked me to reply to your letter of the 16th August, suggesting that those responsible for issuing the pamphlet "Destination Unknown", which you received from the Jewish Legion, should be prosecuted.

When the article reproduced in this pamphlet first appeared in the "Illustrated" of 24th May, it was brought to the notice of the competent Departments, but it was found that there were not sufficient grounds for a prosecution. There is not, of course, any censorship of the press in this country, nor are the Government prepared to use paper rationing as a method of censorship.

Paper is allocated to publishers on the basis of what they used before paper rationing was necessary. As regards educational books, the Board of Trade have taken considerable measures to improve the supply. The main publishers, who get about 80% of what they used previously, are compelled to use 25% for publishing educational books, and of the remaining 75% they are compelled to use the same proportion also for educational books as they used before. In addition there is a fairly large pool of paper which is issued on the advice of a committee for publishing books of cultural, scientific and educational interest which would not otherwise get published.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) M. J. O.S.

Rev. T. P. Backhouse,

Private Secretary.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61823

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Palestine | EY802 G 23 AUG 1941 89 |
| 401 | FASTERN | |
| EY802/48/9 | Suggestion that France should accept President Wafford's <u>travel by train via Germany</u> . | |
| M. Duff Cooper Paris 836 | Dated 23 Aug | |
| Received 25 Aug. | | |
| Last Paper. EY801 | (Minutes.) | <i>J. E. CABLE</i> (C.J.E. CABLE) 25/8 D. S. Bent Aug 25 |
| References. EY488/48/9 | | |
| (Print.) | | |
| (How disposed of.) 2) IIP 25 Aug | | <i>V. H.</i> ✓ 26/8 |
| Action completed.) | (Index.) | |
| <i>25/8</i> | <i>left</i> | |
| Next Paper. | | |

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Green . 90

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

EY802

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

25 AUG 1947

(From United Kingdom Delegation to European Reconstruction Conference)

Mr. Duff Cooper D: 6.46 p.m. 23rd August, 1947.
No. 836
23rd August, 1947. R: 7.40 p.m. 23rd August, 1947.

Repeated to: Jerusalem
Marseilles
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean
Berlin
Lubbecke

G G G G

Foreign Office please pass to Berlin, Lubbecke, Jerusalem and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams 124, 21, 55 and unnumbered respectively.

Your telegram No. 1895; Jewish Illegal Immigration.

French Government were requested accordingly today to admit President Warfield Jews by train via British zone of Germany.

2. Matter will be considered by Council of Ministers on 27th August.

[Repeated to Berlin]

[Copies sent to Norfolk House for repetition to Lubbecke, Colonial Office for Jerusalem and Admiralty for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean]

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Reference: FO 371/61893

25 AUG 1947

25 AUG 1947

232

E

1947

PALESTINE

E 7835

26 AUG 1947

91

Registry Number E 7835/48/31

FROM Embassy

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Rome
351
Aug 14
26Control of Illegal Entry into Italy.Transmit copy of aide memoire no
369/18/47 to my Foreign Affairs.Increasing increase in number of Jews
that have entered of Italy clandestinely.Leggett on how many run by AJDC
at Cuneo to looked into.Last Paper
7812

References

10/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 Digham 80
Robertson 111
Launched 10/11/47
Nov. 12

Copies to: (Minutes.)
 C.O. M.I.S. usual names
 Cabinet Office } names

Now see E 7808

26/8

Action by 10/11
8/11 P.M.

(Action completed)

G.C. 12/11

(Index)

28/9/48

Next Paper

7836

38582

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Reference: FO 371 / 61823

No. 351

(369/18/47)

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, 14th August , 1947.

Reference to previous despatch :

From Foreign Office :
To

Description of Enclosure.

| Name and Date. | Subject. |
|--|----------------------------|
| Copy of Aide Memoire No. 369/18/47 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs. | Jewish illegal immigrants. |

E 7835
26 AUG 1947

92

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Reference: FO 371 / 61823

93

369/18/47.

Confidential.Aide Memoire.

With reference to previous correspondence between the Embassy and the Ministry respecting the illegal entry of Jews across the northern frontier between Austria and Italy, the latest information which has reached the Embassy from both sides of the frontier shows that there has recently been a large increase in the number of persons who have succeeded in entering Italy clandestinely. It is reported, for example, that on 5th August a large number of Jews succeeded in entering Italy by the Rezia Pass from the French Zone of Austria, and that at about the same time some 1,000 illegal entrants succeeded in crossing by the Tauri Pass from the United States Zones of Austria. Of these it appears that only some 175 were caught by the Italian frontier authorities and returned to Austria.

2. It seems obvious that a determined and concerted attempt is being made to pass the maximum number of Jews illegally into Italy across the Austrian frontier during the closing weeks of the summer and before the snows impede traffic across the high mountain passes. In view of the repeated statements by the Ministry, in correspondence with the Embassy, about the intention of the Italian Government to intensify the scale and vigilance of the Police control on the northern frontier, the Embassy expresses the earnest hope that effective action will be taken immediately to put a stop to these mass movements, which can otherwise only result in further attempts at illegal immigration into Palestine from the Italian coast, with the wellknown international complications.

3. In connection with the foregoing, the Embassy would again draw the Ministry's attention to the existence of a so-called welfare camp maintained by the American Joint Distribution Company at Casere in the Valle Aurina at the foot of the Tauri Pass. It was understood that this Jewish camp was established with the consent of the Prefect of Bolzano. However, there is a strong suspicion that this camp in fact acts as a reception station for the traffic of illegal entrants and that these are sent forward by road from this camp to the Milan area. The Embassy suggest, therefore, that an urgent investigation should be made into the activities at this camp and that the necessary action should be taken by the Italian police authorities to put an end to such abuses, if established.

Rome.

14th August, 1947.

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Reference: - FO 371 / 61823

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94

E.7836

26 AUG 1

PALESTINE

Registry Number | E7836/48/31
 FROM Embassy
 No. Ramle
 Dated Received in Registry | 357
 19 Aug 20 -

Illegal Immigration
 Refer Rose P.L. 234 (E 5012/48/31)
 Transmits copy of letter from Agency
 Xorris of July 19, giving list of
 measures taken against ships
 suspected of illegal traffic.

Last Paper
7835-

References
28/16

(Print)

(How disposed of)
 8/ Robertson M.R.
 Nightingale C.O.
 Crossed out. cut off
 Aug 29

(Minutes.)

Copies to : *C.R.
M.I.
Colonial Office* } usual names

J. Babbie
(J. B. BABBIE)

JB Aug 26

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FO 371 / 61823

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| (Action completed) | (Index) |
| <i>19/6/29/8</i> | <i>28/16/4</i> |

Next Paper
1848

No.

357

(325/196/47.)

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, 19th August 1947.

Reference to previous despatch:

From Foreign Office : Reference Rome P.L. 234 of 4th June.
To

Description of Enclosure.

| Name and Date. | Subject. |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Copy of letter from Signor Soppi dated 19th July to Ward. | Illegal Jewish immigration. |

95

E 7836
25 AUG 1
5012/48

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Reference:

FO 371/61823

96
196/47.

Translation.

M.F.A.

Rome 19th July, 1947.

Dear Ward,

With reference to your letter of 30th May last,
I enclose a list of measures taken by the competent Italian
authorities against ships suspected of clandestine Jewish traffic.

I consider that what has been done represents an
important contribution towards the satisfaction, as far as possible,
of the British Government's request.

It seems clear I agree that the Hachsharoths situated
on or near the coast play a considerable part in assisting clandestine
departures. We shall try to locate them and require their transfer
elsewhere.

Please accept, etc.,

(Signed) Zoppi.

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FO 371 / 61823

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TRANSLATION.

SECRET.

List of measures adopted by the competent Italian authorities
in regard to ships suspected of clandestine Jewish traffic.

1. "Close scrutiny of ships' papers to establish real intentions".

Steps will be taken to scrutinise the papers of ships flying any flag other than ships of such nationalities as are entitled under Article 185 of the Navigation Code to avail themselves of the right (a reciprocal right) of consigning their papers to their own Consulates, rather than to the port authorities. It is believed that it will be difficult by the scrutiny of ships' paper to ascertain the ships' "intention", particularly as any ship intending to partake in illegal traffic will ensure that its documents are in the best possible order.

2. "Examination of travel documents of any passengers".

The Italian Public Security authorities will ensure that any departing passengers are equipped with internationally valid documents, by which it is possible to establish their personal identity.

3. "Control that master and crew have proper qualifications
(certificates, etc.,)."

Orders have been given for such control to be exercised on all ships flying the Italian flag. The responsibility for exercising such control over the crews of ships flying foreign flags is that of the Consulate of the country concerned.

4. "Safety of life at sea; strict inspection of vessel as provided
in International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (1929) and
International Convention respecting load lines (1930)." The necessary orders have been given to the competent maritime authorities for the observance of the International Conventions in question.

5. "Sanitary inspection of ship and medical inspection of crew and
passengers."

There is already provision that such control should be exercised over Italian ships during any time that they are in port. As regards foreign ships such control cannot be exercised compulsorily, unless it can be ascertained that the general state of cleanliness of the ship and the crew is such to create legitimate concern to the Public Health authorities.

6. "Return to shore and prosecution of passengers found to have
embarked in contravention of Italian law"

Instructions have been given to the port authorities to guarantee the observance of regulations for the safety of life at sea, in preventing the embarkation of a number of passengers greater than permissible for any given ship. The police authorities, as already mentioned in paragraph 2 will in their turn prevent the embarkation of passengers in contravention of Italian law.

7. "Denial of facilities for oil or coal bunkering".

Instructions have been issued that in the case of suspect provisions of fuel will be limited to the minimum required to enable the ship to reach the nearest port mentioned on its route. The amount of fuel already available in the ship will be taken into account in making such provision.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61823

98

8. "Cancellation of registration of any Italian flag ships involved in this traffic.

Where ships flying the Italian flag are ascertained to be involved in clandestine traffic, the port authorities will within the limits of Italian law denounce the ship to the competent judicial authorities, with a view to their exercising the sanctions in question.

9. "Full police control of areas known to be, or suspected of being, used for illegal embarkation."

The land and maritime police have been instructed to intensify their surveillance of areas suspected of being in use for illegal embarkation.

10. "Arrest of vehicles irrespective of actual or apparent ownership found to be transporting persons for illegal embarkation.

The police authorities have already given instructions for the sequestration of all vehicles found flagrantly transporting persons who have entered Italy illegally or of persons whom there is reason to suspect are trying to embark illegally. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed Mr. Keeny that all vehicles of the I.R.O. are required to halt at the request of the police authorities for the necessary control and investigation.

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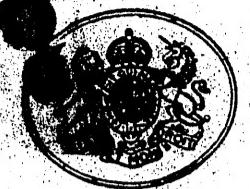
EO 371 / 61823

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|--|-----------------|------------------|---|
| | | Palestine | EY849/G |
| 404 EY849/48/9 | 31 | 20 AUG 1947 | |
| M. Randall Copenhagen 286 Dated 19 Aug Received 26 Aug. | | S.S. San Eusebio | 99 |
| Last Paper EY848 | | (Minutes) | |
| References | | Refers to: | C.O. - Mr. Higham M.I.5 - Mr. Scherr Cabinet Office - Dr. Evershed. 30/8 |
| (Print) | | | |
| (How disposed of) | | | |
| 8) Mr. Higham C.O Mr. Scherr M.I.5 Dr. Evershed C.A.O Sept. 3rd. Aug. | | | |
| (Action completed) 25/8 | (Index) W.H. | | |
| Next Paper | | | |

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E
26 AUG 1947

EY849
BRITISH EMBASSY
26 AUG 1947
COPENHAGEN.

100

19th August, 1947.

1 ep/se

No. 286.
(G170/46/47)

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 392 of 14th August regarding the prevention of illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine, I have the honour to report that the Colombian Charge d'Affaires has not so far received any request for Colombian registry for the S.S. "San Eusebio".

2. I have explained the general situation to him, given him full particulars of the "San Eusebio" and asked him to let me know as soon as any attempt is made to obtain Colombian registry. He seemed to think that it would be extremely difficult for the ship to be registered in Colombia since the formal demands of the Colombian Government were very strict. He suggested, however, that the application might conceivably be made in Stockholm, where the Colombian representative was new and untrained, and I am therefore sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Embassy (No. 29).

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

A.W.G. Randall

The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
Foreign Office.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 31893

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

101

E.../48/G

Confidential

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO COPENHAGEN

No. 392

D. 1.50 p.m. 15th August, 1947

14th August, 1947.

卷之三

CONFIDENTIAL

Jewish illegal immigration.

We understand from a confidential source that master of "San Eusebio" may attempt to obtain Colombian registry for his ship.

2. Please endeavour to dissuade your Colombian colleague from granting such a request, if it has in fact been made.

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Piece *61823*

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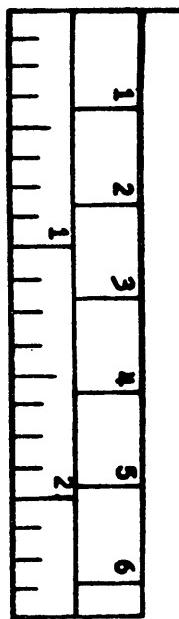
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E7866/48/31

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and closed until..... *1998*

*delete as necessary



Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

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15-1

E

PALESTINE

102

E. 7868

27 AUG 1948

Registry Number E 7868/48/31.
FROM
 No. F.O. Minuteman
 C.P. Mayhew
Dated
 Received in Registry} 23 Aug.
 27

Point de Baie Refugees to Germany.

Gives summary of conversations with
 Jewish Representatives who wanted I.D.M.F.
 to charge their division to send the
 Jews to Germany.

Last Paper
7866

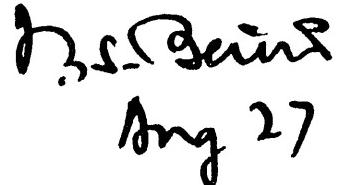
References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)


 C.J. CABLE
 27/8

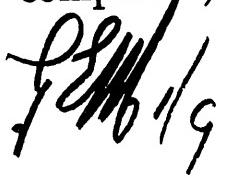

 D.S. Bain
 Aug 27


 R.G.
 V/H/X

In P.P. F.O. Minuteman R.O. Mayhew 27/8.


 J.A.P.

(Action completed)



(Index)



Next Paper

7909.

32538

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Reference:

FO. 371 / 61823

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Cutter

103

E.7868

Mr. Wright

27 AUG 1947

Yesterday afternoon I received two deputations about our decision to send the Port du Bouc refugees to Germany. The first deputation consisted of Mr. Easterman and Dr. Perlzweig of the World Jewish Congress and the second consisted of representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews (Mr. Brotman), the Jewish Association and the Chief Rabbinate (Mr. Greenfield).

At both meetings the discussion took a very similar form. The deputations stressed the psychological distress to the refugees of returning to Germany, and the very unfavourable effect action would have on world opinion; and they pressed me very strongly to say that at 6 o'clock, when voluntary landing in France was no longer possible, we should reconsider our decision to send them to Germany and send them "elsewhere" instead.

In reply I stuck firmly to the point that the refugees were in effect choosing to go to Germany since they could land in France if they wished - and could still enter France from Germany. I could not accept arguments on grounds of humanity since the refugees' decision to go to Germany rather than land in France showed that their motives were political.

Both deputations were embarrassed when I asked them whether they thought the refugees should land in France, and evaded my suggestions that they should urge the refugees to enter France from Germany.

(Sgd.) C. P. MAYHEW.

23rd August, 1947.

Mrs

23.8

Mr. S. F. Baxter 30/8
Mr. Bath

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

10f

1868 48 7) INDEXED

Eastern Department

Mr. Brotman, the Secretary to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, telephoned this morning enquiring whether he and Delegates of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Chief Rabbinate could have an interview with a Minister as soon as possible to discuss H.M.G.'s decision to transfer to Germany the illegal immigrants aboard the transports at Port de Bouc. I informed Mr. Brotman that the Secretary of State was absent, but that we would let him know as soon as possible whether the Parliamentary Under-Secretary or Mr. Ivor Thomas could receive the deputation. His telephone number is Euston 3952.

RSC McAlpine

22nd August, 1947.

as Mr. Ivor Thomas is away on holiday, I arranged for this delegation to see Mr. Mayhew at 5 o'clock this afternoon

J. E. CABLE
(J.E.CABLE)

22/8

N. S. Bent
Aug 22

R. G.
V. 23/8

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1 2 3 4 5 6
Reference: FO 371 / 61823

241

E

1947

MAYNARD

105

E 7910

2 AUG 1

Registry Number } E 7910/48/31

FROM Walter Baker.

No.

Dated

Received in Registry } 28 Aug.

Fate of Jews ex President Warfield

Baker's version suggestion on alternatives to sending Jews to Germany, which act, will in his estimation cause further British lives to be lost.

Last Paper

7909

References

3/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

15/ Brigham
B.O.
and in Becht's
Cabinet.
Done Sept 1
W. Baker
Sept 9th.

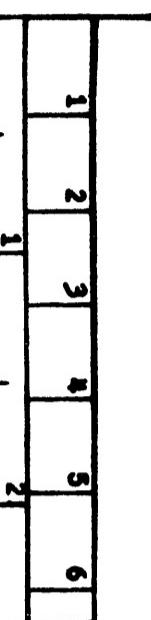
(Minutes.)

Copy Mr Brigham, Co.
With my Comps. for Mrs.
- remit

JB Sept 1

Ackt. JB Sept 5

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61823

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| 28/10/48 | 28/10/48 |

Next Paper

7929.

WALTER COHEN

254, Gloucester Terrace,
London, W.2, 26th August 1947.

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MOST URGENT.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E : 7910

2 AUG 1

Sir,

Re: 3 Ships with 4400 Jews en route to Germany.

The spirit which prompted me to make certain suggestions to the Home Office - vide their letter to me No.865, 258/10 of 10.12.1946 - in connexion with threatened activities of Jewish terrorists in this country, has also actuated me to see this morning Mr. Beith to discuss the above matter.

It is a question of saving British lives, which are in my opinion at stake as soon as the first Jew lands on German soil. It should not be beyond the capacity of the British Government to save these precious British lives by finding a last minute solution to avoid sending these ships to Hamburg.

The originators of the plan to send these Jews to Palestine knew very well that they would not be allowed to disembark there but would, as happened before, be diverted to Cyprus to wait there for their turn to enter Palestine. It appears that these Jews refused to wait for their turn in France only because they feared to lose whatever preferential treatment may have been promised to them. The idea of sending them now to France via Germany seems superfluous and all the consequences entailing again murder of innocent British soldiers in Palestine could in my opinion be avoided if the Jews were again offered to wait in France with the British guarantee to endorse, within the quota, such priority for the entry into Palestine as may be granted to them by the Jewish authorities.

Other Jews, of course, would then have to wait, but their sacrifice in favour of these 4400 Jews would be an internal Jewish affair and nobody could blame the British Government to have treated a number of Jews who tried illegal methods to enter Palestine with preference at the expense of law-abiding Jewish refugees waiting patiently for their turn.

I hope I have made myself clear. This plan would in my view solve the immediate problem to the satisfaction of both sides. The end effect would be the same, i.e. these Jews would after all land in France, but without touching the soil of Germany, thus preventing a new series of murder.

Should this fair offer be rejected by the Jews, the British Government could not be blamed for the consequences. However, even then these consequences could be avoided altogether, if the British Government, in the interest of the

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centuries-old friendship between Britain and Jewry, would revise their decision to send these ships to Germany.

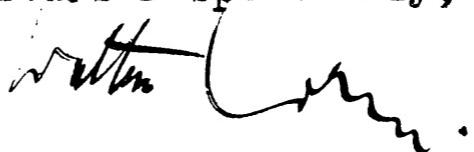
What would, I may be allowed to ask, the British Government do, if they had not the possibility of sending these Jews to Germany? Since they would not sink the ships, they would have to find some other place in the British Empire where the Jews could be disembarked, if necessary by force. May therefore the British Government consider Germany as non-existent in connexion with this particular problem. It is not a matter of "scoring points", of being "intimidated" by or being "stronger" than the Jews etc. - it is a matter of saving British lives.

These ships could be sent to this country &/or Canada, where British Jews would no doubt be willing to house them until their turn would have come for entry into Palestine and until some of them would have decided to remain in Britain &/or Canada, in accordance with the promises made in recent publications. I am also sure that all 4400 Jews or some of them would be allowed by President Truman to disembark in America to await their turn for Palestine, should they prefer to wait in America instead of in France.

These, then, are my suggestions and I fervently hope that they will assist you to find a solution which excludes the necessity of sending these unfortunate people to Germany.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,



P.S. My reference in this country is:

Major-General A.V.T. Wakely, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell,
Shropshire.

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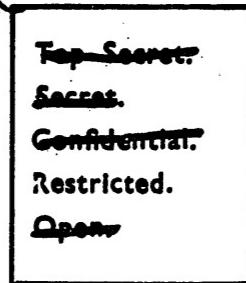
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No. E7910/48/31

Draft.



Mr Walter Cohen
254 Gloucester
Terrace
W.2.

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108

8th Sept

Sir,

I am etc. to
acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of Aug. 26th
regarding the impending
arrival of the Jewish
illegal immigrant ~~ship~~ from
the "President Warfield"
in the British zone of
Germany, the contents
~~of~~ of which have been
carefully noted.

AB Sept. 5

(Sgd) (A.R. Bellows)

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q.L.Spt 47.

RESTRICTED

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 26th regarding the impending arrival of the Jewish illegal immigrants from the "President Warfield" in the British zone of Germany, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgnl) R.A.C. Burrows

Walter Cohen, Esq.,
254, Gloucester Terrace,
W.2.